Sunday, April 26, 2026 No 115 ₹8

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Punjab Kings roar in record chase

Rahul's **152***, the highest by an Indian in T20s, goes in vain as Punjab Kings chase down **265** in commanding fashion

Prabhsimran Singh scores 26-ball **76** to star in the highest run-chase in T20 cricket

P11

Palestinians vote in first elections since Gaza war

Low turnout signals public disillusionment

P9

47 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
SRAMAYEVA JAYATHE
NARAYANA® EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

CBSE CLASS - X 2026 Top Scorers Powered by Narayana Karnataka !

498 B SANJANA REDDY R.No. 18115692

497 BHUVI VEERENDRA S R.No. 18118788

497 SHAURYA MANOJ W R.No. 18118877

497 P NITHISH RAAJ R.No. 18141188

496 YASHNI SHETTY R.No. 18137637

496 ANVIKA SAINI R.No. 18137679

496 NAKUL KHURANA R.No. 18103438

495 ADARSH ARVAPALLY R.No. 18118774

495 GAYATHRI PRASAD I R.No. 18118804

495 ARKODEEP RAY R.No. 18116701

495 NEHA REDDY B R.No. 18116747

495 A KUMARASWAMY R.No. 18186943

495 AKHIL K R.No. 18186944

498 AHAAN SAJEEVAN R.No. 18137633

JEE MAIN 2026

Celebrating 8 State Toppers & Seven 100 Percentiles

KARNATAKA STATE TOPPER
99.99 Percentile
A VISHNU SAI THEJA
App.NO. 260310184412
NARAYANA CLASSROOM STUDENT

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
THAMMINA GIRISH App.NO. 260310175949
TAMIL NADU

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
MADHAV VIRADIYA App.NO. 260310434363
MAHARASHTRA

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
SAI RITHVIK REDDY V V
TELANGANA

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
NARENDRABABU GARI MAHITH App.NO. 260310088709
ANDHRA PRADESH

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
VIVAN SHARAD M APPL NO. 260310757063
TELANGANA

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
SHREYAS MISHRA
DELHI

100 Percentile STATE TOPPER
D BHAVITESH REDDY APPL NO. 260310394397
TELANGANA

99.99 Percentile STATE TOPPER
UTKARSH App.NO. 260310121562
UTTAR PRADESH

99.83 Percentile STATE TOPPER
TANAY AJIT PRABHU App.NO. 260310214688
GOA

99.99 Percentile ALL INDIA FEMALE TOPPER
AASNALM App No. 260310443636

60 STUDENTS ACHIEVE 100 PERCENTILE ACROSS SUBJECTS

27 STUDENTS IN AIR TOP 100 ALL IN OPEN CATEGORY

174 STUDENTS IN AIR TOP 1000 ALL IN OPEN CATEGORY

OUR STUDENTS IN TOP 25

AIR 10 THAMMINA GIRISH APPL. NO: 260310175949

AIR 14 SAI RITHVIK REDDY V V APPL. NO: 260310854532

AIR 17 MADHAV VIRADIYA APPL. NO: 260310434363

AIR 19 V SHARAD MAHISWARI APPL. NO: 260310757063

AIR 21 NARENDRABABU GARI MAHITH APPL. NO: 260310088709

AIR 23 SHREYAS MISHRA APPL. NO: 260310038981 (*nPrep)

AIR 24 D BHAVITESH REDDY APPL. NO: 260310394397

AIR 25 SIDDHARTH SHRIKANT ATHALEY APPL. NO: 260310866622

Disclaimer: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice

Map not to scale, for representation purposes only.

JEE MAIN-2026 RESULTS KARNATAKA

AIR 29 A VISHNU SAI THEJA. APPL. NO: 260310184412

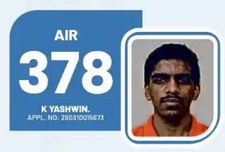
AIR 146 ROHIT SREENIVAS. APPL. NO: 260310043961

AIR 259 AKSHIT BOYAPATI. APPL. NO: 260310045851

AIR 261 NIRANJAN BABU. APPL. NO: 260310041353

AIR 304 NACHIKETH VAASISHTA. APPL. NO: 260310223100

AIR 376 SHAIK FAISAL AHMED. APPL. NO: 260310018079


AIR 378 K YASHWIN. APPL. NO: 260310015673

AIR 420 A SRICHARAN. APPL. NO: 260310310287

AIR 425 V SHREYAS REDDY. APPL. NO: 260310844552

AIR 473 ADHIRATH M PATIL. APPL. NO: 260310063494

AIR 611 MANU PARAMESHWARAN. APPL. NO: 260310089198

AIR 635 ADITYA KUMAR. APPL. NO: 260310889910

AIR 636 UTKARSH ASHUTOSH L. APPL. NO: 260310708583

AIR 647 MD EHAN YASEER. APPL. NO: 260310428281

AIR 655 MEHA JAIN. APPL. NO: 260310202405

AIR 726 EVIN JUBY ISAC. APPL. NO: 260310410482

nPrep : Narayana Digital Learning Programme

Narayana Schools, CBSE & PU Colleges in Karnataka

SCHOOLS - • ADUR Ph: 7022970085, 7349738563 • BANNERGHATTA Ph: 7022293937, 7022192319 • BALLARI Ph: 7022293903/904, 7022293958 • BELLANDUR Ph: 63662 38956, 70222 93941 • CHANDAPURA Ph: 70220 37238, 8179922582 • ELECTRONIC CITY - 2 Ph: 7022037241, 7024162286 • ECITY Ph: 7022293935, 8088602238 • GORAVIGERE Ph: 7899969873,9608084927 • HOSUR Ph: 8438653429, 8438664529 • HSR LAYOUT Ph: 7022027517,7022293992 • JP NAGAR Ph: 7022293914/920 KAMMANAHALLI Ph: 7022293902, 7022293901 • KAGADASAPURA Ph: 70222 93845, 70222 93844 • KASTURI NAGAR Ph: 7022293862, 7022293863 • KORAMANGALA Ph: 7022294007, 7022192275 • KR PURAM Ph: 70222 93859, 70222 93856 • MARAGONDANAHALLI Ph: 70222 93861 / 981 • MARATHAHALLI Ph: 70222 93890 / 875 MATHIKERE Ph: 7022293870, 8179934718 • MYSURU Ph: 7022293922,7022662586 • NAGARBHAVI Ph: 7022293912, 7022281466 • TUMKUR Ph: 7349738565,8179948017 • NANDINI LAYOUT Ph: 7022293872, 7022293870 • MALLASANDRA Ph: 70220 01272, 7899964836 • RAMAMURTHY NAGAR Ph: 7022293867, 7022293866 • RK LAYOUT Ph: 7022293884, 7022293864 RT NAGAR Ph: 7022294015/014 SAHAKAR NAGAR Ph: 7349738570, 7022293942 UTTARAHALLI Ph: 7022192738, 7411125668 • VIDYARANYAPURA Ph: 7022293943, 7022293944 • WHITEFIELD Ph: 7022960894, 7022192032 • YELAHANKA Ph: 7349738562, 7022293880 CO SCHOOLS • CO-CV Raman Bhavan, Kasturi Nagar Ph: 70222 24095 • CO-Bhaskara Bhavan BTM- Hulimavu Ph: 7022293931 • CO-Prasanthi Bhavan, Whitefield Ph: 702201267 • Marathahalli CO Ph: 7022293955 • CO Sindhu Bhavan, Sahakar Nagar Ph: 7022293881 • CO Kaveri Bhavan, Kasavanahalli Ph: 70222 93858 • STAR CO, Nagarbhavi Ph: 7022293962 • CO- Triveni Bhavan, JP Nagar Ph: 7022293922 • STAR CO Ballari Ph: 7022293903

COLLEGES • VIDYARANYAPURA - Ph: 7022294002, 9606980496 • RAJAJINAGAR COE - Ph: 7022294013, 9606980313 • ELECTRONIC CITY (PHASE-2) - Ph: 7022293930, 8179945272 • BALLARI - Ph: 7022293903, 7022293905 • RAMAMURTHY NAGAR - Ph: 7022381465, 7022293854 • CV RAMAN NAGAR - Ph: 7022281463, 7022293953 • BELLANDUR - Ph: 7022293948, 7022293858 • CHANDAPURA - Ph: 7349738574, 7022030836 • HULIMAVU, NOBONAGAR (CO-BHASKARA BHAVAN) - Ph: 7022293931, 9606084890, 7022960891 • KASAVANAHALLI (CO KAVERI BHAVAN) - Ph: 7022293858, 7022293894 • KEMPAPURA, DASARAHALLI (CO-KUVEMPU BHAVAN) - Ph: 7022294013, 7022294004 • WHITEFIELD (CO PRASHANTHI BHAVAN) - Ph: 7022001267 • SAHAKAR NAGAR (CO-SINDHU BHAVAN) - Ph: 7022293924, 7022939246 • JP NAGAR - Ph: 7022293922, 7022293921 • GIRINAGAR - Ph: 7022293962/946, 8722278676 • MARATHAHALLI - Ph: 7022293955, 7022304342 • MALLASANDRA - Ph: 7022293922, 7022001268 • NAGARBHAVI - Ph: 7022293879, 7022293939, 7022293962 • MYSURU - Ph: 7022293922, 7022662586 • TUMKUR - Ph: 7349738565, 8179939626 • BYRATHI - Ph: 7022293850, 7022293853 • KASTURI NAGAR (CO-CV RAMAN BHAVAN) - Ph: 7022224095, 7022224102 • YELAHANKA - Ph: 7022017474, 7022012424 • HOSUR - Ph: 8438653429, 8438664529 • RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES - PUNEET BHAVAN (BANDAPURA - GIRLS) - Ph: 7337587421, 7022001271 • NLM GIRLS (NELAMANGALA) - Ph: 7022293938 • NLM BOYS (NELAMANGALA) - Ph: 7022294001 • BLR-SAMETHANALLI - PRASHANTHI CO BOYS - Ph: 7337587421 • RESIDENTIAL CO SCHOOLS - CO - Saraswathi Bhavan, Boys Campus, Goravigere - Ph: 9642412345 • Girls Campus: Bandapura - Ph: 8351056789

SCAN QR FOR ADMISSIONS

nLearn Online self-learning app

nConnect Tech-enabled performance tracking

#YourDreamsAreOurDreams

Toll Free: 1800 102 3344 | www.narayanagroup.com

Bill in US Congress proposes 3-year pause on H-1B visas

Republican lawmakers suggest sweeping changes to popular programme

WASHINGTON, PTI

A group of Republican lawmakers has introduced a Bill in the US Congress for a three-year pause to the H-1B visa programme, contending that it has been hijacked to replace American workers with cheap foreign labour.

Congressman Eli Crane from Arizona introduced the 'End H-1B Visa Abuse Act of 2026', which was co-sponsored by seven other Republican lawmakers.

The Bill proposes reforms to the H-1B programme that include disallowing H-1B visa holders from bringing dependents to the US.

Congressmen Brian Babin, Brandon Gill, Wesley Hunt, Keith Self (all from Texas), Andy Ogles (Tennessee), Paul Gosar (Arizona) and Tom McClintock (California) have signed on as original cosponsors of the Bill.

The H-1B visa programme is used extensively by American technology companies to employ foreign workers. Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders.

The Bill seeks changes to the H-1B programme that include requiring employers to certify they cannot find a qualified American worker and have not conducted layoffs; and prohibiting third-party staffing agencies from employing them.

The Bill also seeks to end Optional Practical Training (OPT); and ensure nonimmigrant visas remain temporary by prohibiting H-1B holders from adjusting status to permanent residency.

The changes suggested also require nonimmigrants to depart the United States before changing to another nonimmigrant status.

Crane said the Act would provide greater access to employment, strengthen protocols in the visa process, and prioritise the livelihoods of Americans.

"I am proud to cosponsor Rep Eli Crane's efforts to reform and tighten our H-1B visa system, ensuring that our immigration system serves American workers first before foreigners," said Rep Brandon Gill.

Rep Paul Gosar alleged that the H-1B programme has been "hijacked to replace American workers with cheaper foreign labour - plain and simple".

The Bill, he said, slams the brakes on a system that's rigged against its own people. "If a company can hire an American, they should. No loopholes. No excuses. We're done subsidising the outsourcing of our own workforce," Gosar said.

Rep Andy Ogles said American workers are being replaced, and cheap foreign labour is the cause. "We will not bow down to the corporations, and we will not let Americans become strangers in their own country. End the H-1B scam," he said.

Recently, US Vice President J D Vance said there is a lot of fraud in the H-1B system, but acknowledged that people who have come to the US in the past have enriched this country.

The Trump administration has sought to limit most immigration pathways. The administration's changes to the H-1B programme have already fuelled racist rhetoric targeting Indian community.

KEY PROPOSALS

Reduce H-1B annual visa cap from **65,000 to 25,000**

- Minimum wage for getting the visa **$2,00,000/yr**
- **Disallow H-1B visa holders** from bringing dependents to the US
- Replace lottery system with a **wage-based selection system**
- **Bar H-1B workers** from holding **multiple jobs**
- **Prohibit federal agencies** from employing nonimmigrant workers
- **Stop H-1B holders** from getting permanent residency status

"The federal government should work for hardworking citizens, not the profit margins of massive corporations. We owe it to the American people to prevent the broken H-1B system from boxing them out of jobs they are qualified to perform. **Eli Crane,** US Congress member

Rs 1,000-cr RERA relief yet to reach homebuyers

Revenue dept fails to recover fines from developers

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

POOR RECOVERY

- **Orders issued:** 2,325 amounting to Rs 1,081 crore
- **Recovered:** 282 orders to the tune of Rs 110.27 crore
- RERA officials say **they don't have powers** to recover the fines
- **Real estate regulator seeks dedicated cell** in revenue dept to ensure recoveries

Recently, the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) imposed a fine of close to Rs 56 lakh on Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for failing to provide basic amenities at the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. While this brought some relief to homebuyers, making developers and promoters pay up is crucial.

According to data, till February, close to 2,325 homebuyers have got such relief with RERA ordering developers to pay homebuyers for inconveniences like delay in completing projects and not providing basic amenities. However, of these, only 282 promoters or developers, a mere 8.2%, have paid up. In these 2,325 cases, a fine of close to Rs 1,081 crore was ordered but only close to Rs 110 crore has been recovered and given to homebuyers.

RERA officials told *DH* that the revenue department was entrusted with the responsibility of recovery and the RERA did not have such powers. This, the activists said had made it difficult for the homebuyers. A transition from 'favourable order' to 'money in the bank' or 'keys in hand' is crucial, they said.

"The disposal of complaint is high but execution is slow. In Karnataka, the main bottleneck is the deputy commissioner's office. Once the Recovery Certificate is issued by K-RERA, we need to follow up physically with the tahsildar or the DC office in Bengaluru (or relevant district) to ensure they initiate the attachment of the builder's property. The DC has the power to recover the amount as "Arrears of Land Revenue," which includes seizing and auction the builder's property or freezing their bank accounts," said M S Shankar from the Forum for People's Collective Efforts.

The workload in the revenue department had only meant that these issues were put on the back burner, sources said.

However, in many cases, by the time a case is disposed of, some developers would have already moved funds or assets into subsidiary companies.

▸ RERA, Page 6

CET student's janivara cut at Chikkaballapur exam centre

CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS: The controversy over the alleged removal of janivara (sacred thread) and other religious symbols during the KCET examination intensified on Saturday as the sacred thread of a student who had come to the Nagarajuna College of Engineering at Bidaganahalli in the taluk was cut during screening.

The college falls within the Chintamani Assembly constituency represented by Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar.

The student, Supreeth, alleged that he had "Upanayana" (a ritual during which sacred thread is worn) 10 days ago. "I was told to remove janivara, but I refused. However, the personnel cut my sacred thread and threw it into a dustbin," he said.

The leaders of the Brahmin community of Chintamani taluk and Supreeth's mother have lodged a complaint with the deputy superintendent of police.

A political row erupted after Brahmin students were allegedly forced to remove the thread, considered sacred and worn across the torsos, at a college in Bengaluru in during the CET on Friday.

Students alleged that the invigilators at the college in Madiwala asked them to remove their sacred thread if they wanted to write the exam.

Unacceptable, says minister

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday described as "inhumane" the act of forcing students to remove earrings, bangles, hijab, the sacred thread and chopping off their long sleeves with scissors.
Details on Page 3B

Trump cancels envoys' trip to Pak; Iran conveys demands

ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said he told his top envoys not to travel to Pakistan to negotiate with Iran, even as Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi laid out Tehran's demands and its reservations about US positions as Islamabad made a new push to end the West Asia war.

In a brief phone interview, Trump told *Fox News* that he told US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner "you're not going to be making any more 18 hour flights to sit around talking about nothing."

Trump also said of the US side "we have all the cards" and that "they can call us anytime they want". Asked whether the cancellation meant he would resume the war, Trump told *Axios*: "No. It doesn't mean that. We haven't thought about it yet".

His comments came after the White House said Friday that Witkoff and Kushner would be heading to Pakistan for another round of negotiations with Iran.

After holding talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Araqchi and his delegation flew out of Islamabad with a military jet escort, government sources said. Details of the talks were scant.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi meets Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. REUTERS

FROM WEST ASIA

- Israeli airstrikes kill four people in southern Lebanon despite ceasefire
- Germany will send a minesweeper to Mediterranean for a possible mission in Strait of Hormuz after end of war
- Iran carries out capital punishment of a man who carried out a "mission" for Israel's spy agency
- US has frozen $344 mn in cryptocurrency assets over ties to Iran

It was not immediately clear if or when Araqchi would return to Pakistan. Iran has previously ruled out a new round of direct talks with the US.

Araqchi "explained our country's principled positions regarding the latest developments related to the ceasefire and the complete end of the imposed war against Iran", said a statement on the minister's Telegram account.

Asked about Tehran's reservations about US positions in the talks, an Iranian diplomatic source in Islamabad told Reuters: "Principally, the Iranian side will not accept maximalist demands."

US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had earlier told reporters that Iran had a chance to make a "good deal". "Iran knows that they still have an open window to choose wisely," he said. "All they have to do is abandon a nuclear weapon in meaningful and verifiable ways."

Araqchi arrived in Islamabad on Friday. But an Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson posted on X that Iranian officials did not plan to meet US representatives and that Tehran's concerns would be conveyed to mediator Pakistan.

AAP, defectors lock horns as party workers stage protests

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI: The Aam Aadmi Party and its Rajya Sabha MPs who jumped ship to the BJP locked horns on Saturday, with defector Raghav Chadha alleging that they quit not out of fear but due to "growing sense of disappointment, disengagement and disgust" with the party.

Entering damage-control mode, AAP leader and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said in Chandigarh that he will be writing to President Droupadi Murmu seeking an appointment to demand the "recall" of the defected MPs. He further said he is also seeking permission to take the party's Punjab MLAs with him for the meeting.

AAP Rajya Sabha leader Sanjay Singh said he will soon be writing to Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan seeking disqualification of Chadha and six others, who joined the saffron party on Friday leaving just three MPs with the Arvind Kejriwal-led party.

AAP workers held protests outside the Punjab residences of Rajya Sabha MPs Harbhajan Singh, Ashok Mittal and Rajinder Gupta. Some of them also wrote 'Gaddar' (traitor) on the walls of the houses in Ludhiana and Jalandhar.

Chadha said they joined the BJP because there is "no space left to work in the AAP" and "every true patriot who had nurtured the AAP with their blood and sweat with great hope has either already left the party or is in the process of leaving it".

▸ AAP, Page 6

AAP workers stage a protest in Punjab against the defection of the party's seven Rajya Sabha MPs. SOCIAL MEDIA

AT REST

Fishing boats remain anchored at Bhatkal port on Saturday. DH PHOTO

KCR's daughter names her new party TRS

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Former MP and daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, K Kavitha, on Saturday announced the launch of her political party, Telangana Rashtra Sena (TRS), a name that deliberately echoes the former identity of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) led by her father. KCR had renamed the original Telangana Rashtra Samithi as BRS a few years ago.

Speaking at the party's launch, Kavitha said she felt ashamed to have been part of a family that ruled Telangana for nearly a decade. She criticised the BRS for failing to function as an effective opposition even as her most pointed remarks were reserved for her own father. In what appeared to be her most direct public attack on KCR to date, Kavitha said he had lost his political maturity and become a "robot" in the hands of others.

Details on Page 8

HC quashes case against Ranveer after affidavit

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Saturday quashed proceedings against Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh after accepting a revised undertaking by the actor that he will visit a Chavundi Daiva temple to make amends for mimicking the deity depicted by Kannada actor Rishab Shetty in the film Kantara-1.

Ranveer Singh

During the hearing, Justice Nagaprasanna said that while disposing of the petition he will record that the actor will have to visit the temple in four weeks.

Details on Page 5

IMD issues heatwave advisories as temperatures soar

NEW DELHI, PTI

The scorching heat, which has been slowly but steadily gripping northern states, showed no signs of abating, as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) released detailed guidelines and advisories on how to combat and survive heatwaves on Saturday, with Delhi logging its hottest day of the season, so far.

Temperatures in several regions have been significantly above normal—by five degrees Celsius or more — indicating a developing heat stress scenario across parts of the country, according to the IMD.

Isolated areas in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and central India are expected to experience heatwave conditions and warm nights, the weather office observed.

Southern states are also feeling the effects of the extreme weather. In Kerala, high levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation are being reported, with maximum temperatures ranging between 37 and 40 degrees Celsius. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan held a high-level meeting on Saturday, issuing several recommendations to address the issues caused by the heatwave, including ensuring an uninterrupted power supply.

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has warned of severe heatwave and heatwave conditions in several mandals across the state, with temperatures crossing the 42-degree mark in several districts.

In its guidelines, the IMD advised avoiding prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, especially during peak afternoon hours, staying adequately hydrated, wearing light and breathable clothing, and avoiding strenuous outdoor activities during high-temperature periods.

The weather body has advised special care for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing conditions. "The department emphasised that early awareness and preventive action are critical in reducing heat-related illnesses," an IMD official said.

SUMMER IMPACT

Max temperatures in northwest, central, peninsular India range between **40°** & **44°** C

- In several regions, temperatures above normal by 5 degrees or more
- Indications of developing heat stress across country.
- Hot, humid conditions expected over coastal and eastern regions
- Warm night conditions likely in parts of north India

SMALL IS BIG

Nuclear shift of Indian families has a big environmental impact

DH SPECIAL

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

RED FLAGS

1. **Smaller homes consume more resources** per person than larger ones
2. Between 2001 & 2011, percentage of nuclear families in India jumped from **61% to 68%**
3. By 2050, citizens aged 65 and above is expected to reach **315 mn**
4. This will **constitute 20%** of country's total population
5. Older population typically spend more time at home, increasing **domestic energy needs**

While small families are today's norm, their big impact on the environment hardly catches anyone's attention. Now, a new study has found that nuclear families, along with an ageing population, is driving up resource consumption in India at an alarming rate.

The study by C M Lakshmana, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), reveals that the move away from joint families is making small households less efficient.

Even as India's economic discourse remains preoccupied with the 'demographic dividend' of having a largely younger population, its shifting social structure — anchored on nuclear families — is creating an unexpected environmental impact which is largely ignored.

Smaller homes consume more water, electricity and goods per person than larger ones, leading to higher carbon emissions. The study also highlights that by 2050, the number of citizens aged 65 and above is expected to reach 315 million, constituting 20% of the country's total population.

The study states that the older population typically spend more time at home, increasing domestic energy needs for heating and cooling.

Additionally, the disposal of pharmaceutical residues from increased medicine use is emerging as a significant threat to water systems.

The shift has led to a surge in demand for housing and energy. As families split into smaller units, the duplication of household assets like refrigerators, cars and air conditioners has caused per-capita energy use to skyrocket.

According to Lakshmana, who is associated with the ISEC's Population Research Centre (PRC), little attention has so far been paid to the population's possible environmental impact, despite a fair understanding of its social and economic implications.

"Larger households consume proportionately fewer resources than the smaller ones," Lakshmana notes, pointing out that a three-person household uses only about twice the water of a single-person home.

▸ Families, Page 6

Bengaluru Sunday, April 26, 2026 Pages 32 Vol 79 No 115 ₹8

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

FM asks fin sector to tighten cybersecurity

P8

Big Picture

Sting in the tale

From Nehru's invitation to be mocked to today's meme-fuelled wars, the political cartoon endures as a sharp satirical mirror

Page14

Quickly

B'luru to get 2 new trains to Mumbai

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday announced two new Bengaluru-Mumbai trains, including a Vande Bharat sleeper, in the coming months. A Vande Bharat (seater) train connecting Bengaluru and Mangaluru would also be launched.
Details on Page 3A

Abuse during census: BNCC lodges plaint

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) officials have filed a complaint against an unknown individual for verbally abusing its staff who were on census duty. According to a statement by the corporation, an enumerator and a supervisor faced non-coperation and verbal abuse from a resident in Ward number 43.
Details on Page 3A

BJP leader's remarks expose Centre: CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused PM Modi of being no more than the US President Donald Trump's "puppet", claiming BJP leader Ram Madhav's recent remarks in the US had "exposed" the Modi government's "dangerous" priorities.

Kannada dailies a must in schools: Govt

The education department has issued an order making reading of Kannada newspapers for ten minutes mandatory every day at schools. The order is based on the recommendation by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. It states that students have to read Kannada newspapers after morning prayers in all schools.
Details on Page 4

Accept bodies: Manipur CM urges kids' kin

Manipur CM Y Khemchand Singh on Saturday appealed to the family of the two children killed in a bomb attack in Bishnupur district to accept their bodies, which have remained in a morgue for over two weeks. Their family had said they would not accept the bodies until those responsible were arrested. Singh said the government was working with security agencies to trace those behind the attack. Singh also called for dialogue.
Details on Page 8

Labour unrest exposes deeper economic fault lines

The recent flare-ups in the industrial belts of Noida and Manesar have brought to surface underlying pressures from low wages, informal employment and rising costs

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Police resort to lathi charge during wage hike protest in Noida on April 13. PTI

INSIGHT

Workers' protests recently disrupted industrial activity and civil life in Noida, a key business hub in the Delhi-National Capital Region. In some areas, the protests turned violent, with incidents of arson, vandalism and clashes with police. The Uttar Pradesh government announced up to a 21% hike in minimum wages to calm the unrest, but also detained hundreds of protesters and alleged a Pakistan-linked conspiracy.

Most of the protesters are contractual workers, with little or no union representation. So how did such a large-scale protest erupt? While Uttar Pradesh Labour Minister Anil Rajbhar has called it a "well-planned conspiracy" by anti-national forces having possible links with Pakistan, the incident highlights broader vulnerabilities faced by workers across industrial clusters.

All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur said the protests were not sudden, adding that workers' anger had been building for several months.

"In early February, these protests began in Barauni, Bihar. Thousands of workers were on the road demanding revision of minimum wages, proper payment for overtime work and social security," she said, adding that similar protests also took place in Panipat, Faridabad and Manesar in Haryana, and Surat in Gujarat.

Kaur said the main demands across the protests were similar — higher wages, fair overtime pay, proper working conditions and social security such as provident fund and gratuity.

"Naturally, workers in Barauni have friends and family in places like Panipat, Manesar and Noida. Information spread through these networks and social media," she said, dismissing the conspiracy theory behind the protests.

However, Noida Police claimed that inflammatory messages were circulated through WhatsApp groups and social media to intensify the protests. Aditya Anand, a BTech graduate from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jamshedpur, has been described by investigators as a key conspirator and has been arrested.

According to Sudip Dutta, National President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, workers' key demands include an eight-hour workday, double overtime pay, proper lunch breaks and eating spaces, higher wages and social security benefits.

"My monthly salary is Rs 12,000. Prices are rising for everything, but there is hardly any increase in wages," said a worker who took part in the Noida protests.

Another worker, who requested anonymity, said labourers are struggling due to rising living costs. "Now we pay Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 for an LPG cylinder in the black market. Earlier it was around Rs 1,000. How can we survive without a salary increase?" the worker asked.

Real wages for regular jobs have not kept pace with price rises.

Inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) increased by about 54% between October 2016 and February 2026, while minimum wages rose by around 53%.

This indicates that the real wages of workers are now less than what they were getting 10 years ago.

▸ Worker protests, Page 2

From mother tongue to multilingualism

Learner-centred education strengthens regional languages and builds multilingual skills

A GIRIDHAR RAO

The SUNDAY STORY

The Karnataka government's decision to replace marks with grades for the third language in schools, and the High Court's direction to continue marks-based evaluation, have brought renewed focus on Hindi. As the debate continues, it is important to zoom out and reflect on language education in multilingual India. Committees and experts have outlined strong reasons for teaching multiple languages in Indian schools: from nation-building to livelihood skills to personal enrichment. A few key aspects emerge from the current debate.

In India, children often acquire multiple languages simultaneously and use them depending on context. It is primarily in school that languages are organised into a hierarchy: L1 (usually the mother tongue), L2 and L3. That said, when done creatively and effectively, language learning can enhance cultural exposure. Beyond this, learning L2 and L3 alongside L1 builds metalinguistic awareness, the ability to think about language itself. Learners begin to notice differences in sounds, structures and expressions across languages, and draw connections between them. This interplay helps each language reinforce the other: L1 supports the learning of L2 and L3, while additional languages deepen one's understanding of L1.

This improvement in L1 includes the ability to compare and contrast, develop analogies, identify counter-examples and spot gaps in logic — that is, higher-order thinking skills. These are transferable skills, critical to learning in science, mathematics and the social sciences. Research suggests that cultivating these skills is far easier in a language the student knows well. This explains the long-standing insistence among educationists that the medium of instruction should be the learner's language.

This is also why many linguists are concerned about states shifting to English as the medium of instruction: building higher-order thinking skills is difficult in a language that neither the teacher nor the student speaks at home.

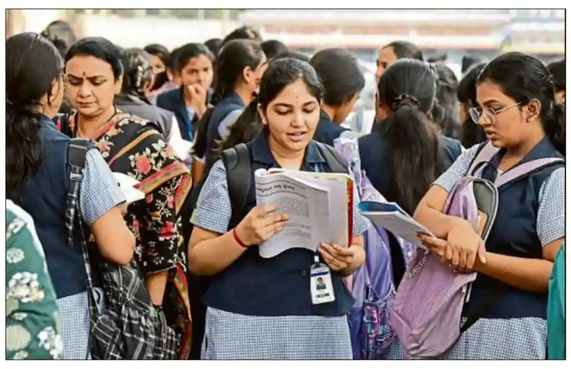
An academic burden?

When language teaching is conducted the way it often is in India's school system, it can add to the academic burden. Last year, 89% of SSLC students who did not pass in Karnataka failed in the third language. However, government data for 2025-26 shows a startlingly significant improvement: only 1.3% of students failed did so in the third language. While more analysis is needed to understand the reasons, it is clear that L3 need not be an academic burden.

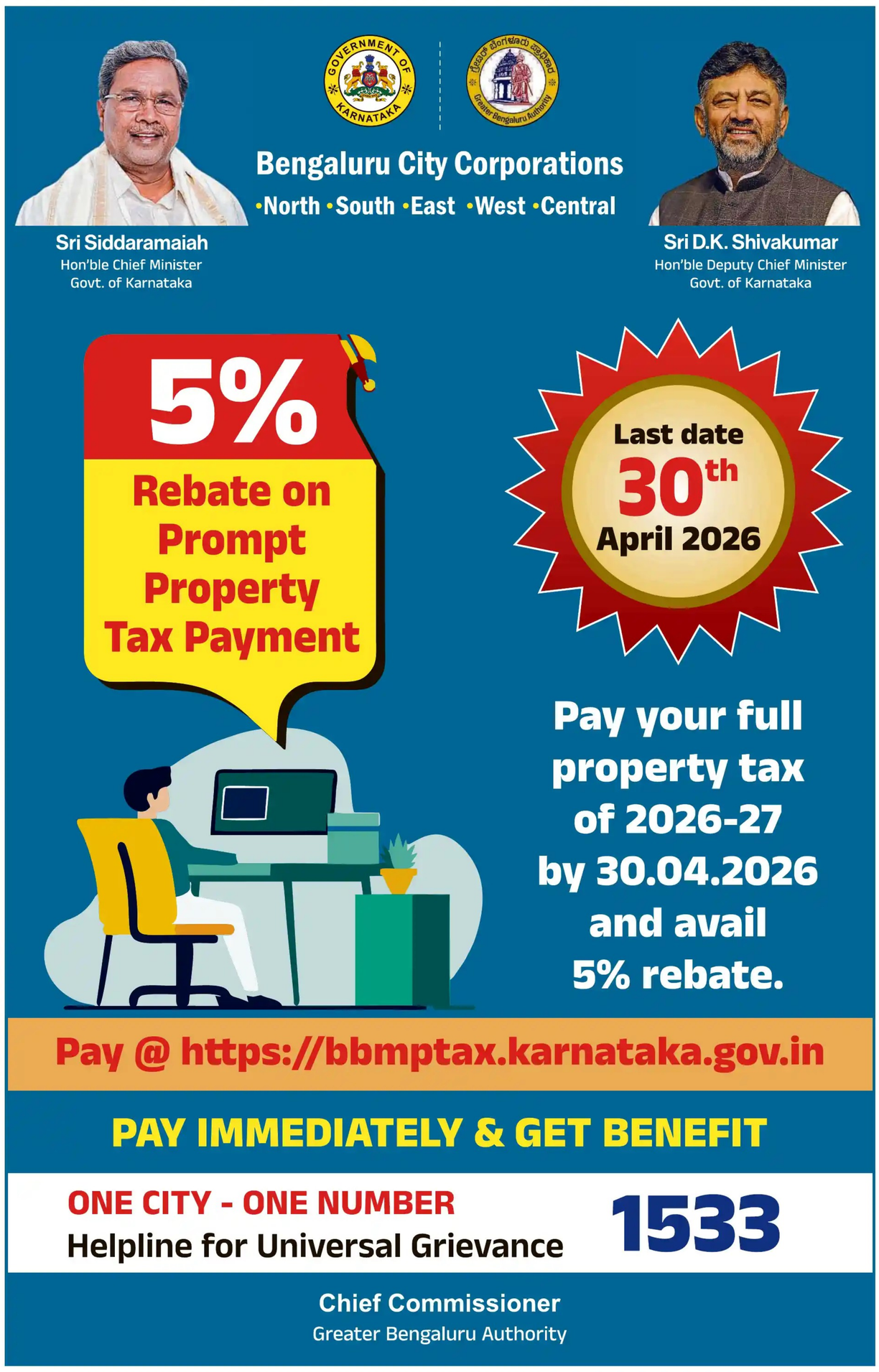
The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (2023) outlines curricular goals for the third language in the middle stage (Classes 6 to 8), focusing on basic communication skills rather than academic proficiency. As such, L3 content is not intended to be as cognitively demanding as that in L1 and L2. Meeting these goals will require new learning materials and a shift in pedagogy, with clear implications for teacher training.

Educational theory and experience emphasise that the learner's interests must be at the centre; all other considerations are secondary. Yet, policy-makers often invoke 'systemic realities' to divert attention.

▸ Language education, Page 2



The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (2023) prioritises basic communication skills over academic proficiency in third-language learning for Classes 6-8. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

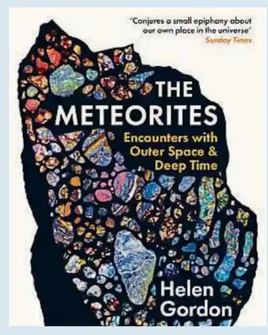


Travel
Page16

Peak beauty

The fort in Kangra valley treats you to stunning views of the snow-capped Dhauladhar range

Books
Page15


"Conjures a small epiphany about our own place in the universe" Sunday Times
THE METEORITES
Encounters with Outer Space & Deep Time
Helen Gordon

Planet chronicles

Against the backdrop of Nasa's recent lunar mission, we look at books that reflect on how space affects us

Food & Drink
Page17

Indigenous spirits

From kokum and gondhoraj to mahua and betel leaf, Indian flavours make for exciting cocktails

Labour tensions reveal trade-off

Worker protests, from P1

There is also a wide disparity. In 2016, monthly minimum wages for unskilled workers were Rs 9,724 in Delhi, Rs 8,070 in Haryana and Rs 7,936 in Uttar Pradesh. By 2026 (before recent protest-linked hikes), they stood at Rs 18,456 in Delhi, Rs 11,274 in Haryana and Rs 11,314 in Uttar Pradesh.

Living costs are largely comparable across the National Capital Region (NCR), but minimum wages vary widely. With about a 90% rise since 2016, Delhi has the highest minimum wages in the NCR, while Noida and Ghaziabad have the lowest.

Protests in Manesar, Palwal, Faridabad and other parts of Haryana prompted the Nayab Singh Saini government to hike minimum wages by up to 35%. Effective April 1, 2026, wages for unskilled workers rose from Rs 11,274 to Rs 15,220; for semi-skilled from Rs 12,430 to Rs 16,780; skilled from Rs 13,704 to Rs 18,500; and highly skilled from Rs 14,389 to Rs 19,425.

Trigger for Noida protests

Haryana's wage hike acted as an immediate trigger for the Noida protests, with wide disparities reported in wages across NCR subsidiaries of the same companies. The Yogi Adityanath government also agreed to hike the minimum wages by up to 21% in response to the protests.

In Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) districts, which are adjacent to Delhi and form part of the NCR, minimum wages for unskilled workers have been raised from Rs 11,313 to Rs 13,690 per month. For semi-skilled workers, they have been increased to Rs 15,059 and for skilled workers to Rs 16,868.

The wage hike has been coupled with a crackdown on protesters and labour contractors. Licences of over 35 labour contractors have been cancelled for alleged violations of workers' rights, including non-payment of wages, bonuses and overtime.

Hundreds of protesters have been booked under various sections, including rioting, criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder and endangering life or personal safety.

West Asia conflict

The US–Israel–Iran conflict has significantly impacted Indian industries and workers. Factories across the country have cut operations due to shortages of raw materials and rising energy prices, leading to job losses.

High LPG prices have pushed up the cost of living. Outside food has also become more expensive. "A cup of tea used to cost Rs 15, now it is Rs 20. A plate of samosas now costs Rs 50," said Mahendra, a factory worker in Noida, referring to the impact of the West Asia conflict on their living costs.

A large number of migrant workers have returned to their native places, leading to labour shortages in industrial clusters across Delhi NCR, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Deepak Dumra, Director of Eveline International, a Ludhiana-based hosiery knitwear manufacturer and exporter, said at least 20% of workers who went to their native places during the Holi festival in late February and early March have not returned to work.

- According to an analysis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey data for 2023–24, nearly **64%** of Indian workers earn less than the minimum wage.
- A note by the Foundation for Economic Development states that for around **50%** of workers, even a **30%** wage increase would still leave their earnings below the minimum wage threshold.

Another Ludhiana-based businessman said the fear among workers is similar to that during the Covid-19 pandemic. "In a crisis situation, people prefer to stay close to their families. The difficulties faced during Covid are still fresh in their minds," said the industrialist, requesting anonymity.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the ongoing West Asia conflict could push around 25 lakh people in India into poverty.

"Through higher fuel, freight and input costs, the shock is diminishing household purchasing power, increasing food insecurity, straining public budgets and weakening livelihoods," the UNDP said in a report titled *Military Escalation in the Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia and the Pacific*.

Minimum wages

Recent labour protests have focused on demands for higher minimum wages, yet data shows that a vast majority of workers in the country still earn below the statutory threshold.

According to an analysis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data for 2023–24, nearly 64% of Indian workers earn less than the minimum wage.

A note by the Foundation for Economic Development states that for around 50% of workers, even a 30% wage increase would still leave their earnings below the minimum wage threshold.

The New Delhi-based think tank said that India's current minimum wage laws may be doing more harm than good for low-income workers. "This is also one of the contributing factors to slow formal-sector job growth in the country, leaving nearly 90% of India's workforce — millions of individuals — stuck in informal, low-paying jobs that lack contracts or social security benefits," it said.

"If nearly half of our workforce cannot be legally hired even after giving them a 30% raise, then the minimum wage has backfired," said Rahul Ahluwalia, founding director of Foundation for Economic Development.

Labour codes

Four labour codes namely, the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, which came into effect from November 21 last year, have been touted as major labour reforms. These codes have rationalised 29 central labour laws into a unified framework covering wages, industrial relations, social security and safety.

Under the earlier regulations, minimum wages applied only to scheduled employment, covering only about 30% of workers. The newer framework has expanded this scope: the Code on Wages, 2019 establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees across both the organised and unorganised sectors.

The new code also has provisions for a statutory floor wage, to be set by the central government based on minimum living standards, with scope for regional variation. No state can fix minimum wages below this level. Labour unions argue that the new codes empower industries and make workers vulnerable.

"These labour codes are actually to legalise all the violations that are happening," said Amarjeet Kaur.

Under the new laws, a large number of business-related offences have been decriminalised to improve the ease of doing business. The labour codes have replaced imprisonment with monetary fines for certain violations, and employers are given a mandatory 30-day window to comply before legal action is initiated. Additionally, over 1,000 minor offences across 79 Acts have been decriminalised through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, which was passed by the Parliament earlier this month.

Manufacturing ambition

Just months after taking office in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government launched the "Make in India" initiative with the aim of transforming the country into a global manufacturing hub.

Over the past decade, the Modi government has taken a series of steps to improve India's Ease of Doing Business ranking. Labour reform has been positioned as a key element of efforts to make doing business easier in the country.

However, manufacturing has not yet taken off. The share of manufacturing in India's GDP has remained largely stagnant at around 16–17%. Only about 12% of India's workforce is employed in manufacturing, compared with nearly 30% in China.

The challenge is not only to ensure better pay and working conditions for workers in industrial clusters, but also to create jobs for millions of youth entering the workforce each year. When a manufacturing company creates one new job, it indirectly generates about 2.2 additional jobs in the economy, while in the case of services, it creates less than one additional job.

Manufacturing creates productive jobs for the average worker. It also enables other sectors to grow by generating demand for their output and through technology spillovers.

Industry leaders fear that a sharp rise in wages could erode the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers.

"Our margins are very thin. If we increase prices, our customers will shift to countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam," said a Noida-based industrialist involved in the manufacturing and export of apparel products.

In sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, and engineering goods, India's competitiveness is largely based on low costs, primarily driven by cheap labour. High-technology goods account for less than 6% of India's overall engineering export basket.

The government has set a target of boosting merchandise exports to $1 trillion by 2030. In 2025–26, India's goods exports stood at $441.8 billion, just 0.9% higher than the previous year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

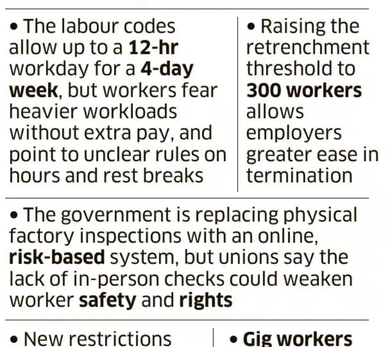
India faces a critical challenge in balancing its manufacturing ambitions with labour interests. Recent worker protests have further added to the complexity.

Widening industrial unrest

- **Since February**, India has seen multiple **confrontations** across sectors between industrial workers and state authorities or private employers
- Most of the friction arose from workers' complaints over non-revision of **minimum wages**, **unsafe working conditions** and unfair **overtime** pay
- The **West Asia war** and rising prices of essentials were the immediate triggers for the collective **protests**, while inflationary pressures, **stagnant wages**, delayed wage revisions and the contract labour trap are the underlying causes
- The rollout of the new **labour codes** in April 2026 has deepened **worker dissatisfaction** and **confusion** amid inconsistent state rules, unclear definitions and a new inspection system that unions plan to challenge in court

Rising contract labour, falling security

Share of contract workers in India's manufacturing sector



- Contract workers are hired for fixed terms or tasks and often lack social security benefits such as **provident fund** and **health insurance** available to permanent employees
- The **contractual model** creates a more **flexible** workforce but can lead to lower training levels and greater **job insecurity**
- This poses challenges to labour rights and collective bargaining
- Rising contractualisation has coincided with a decline in employers' wage contributions, from **11.07%** in FY20 to **10.87%** in FY22

New labour codes: Issues and confusion

- Uneven state rules have made compliance to the new labour codes **difficult**, especially for multi-location manufacturers
- The labour codes allow up to a **12-hr** workday for a **4-day week**, but workers fear heavier workloads without extra pay, and point to unclear rules on hours and rest breaks
- Raising the retrenchment threshold to **300 workers** allows employers greater ease in termination
- The government is replacing physical factory inspections with an online, **risk-based** system, but unions say the lack of in-person checks could weaken worker **safety** and **rights**
- New restrictions on **strikes**, union recognition and dispute resolution have raised fears of weakened collective **bargaining** power
- **Gig workers** remain outside traditional employer-employee frameworks

Why workers are upset

- Between **2021** and **2026**, the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers rose nearly **25%**, while several states delayed base wage revisions even as dearness allowance was periodically updated
- **Revisions vary widely:** Haryana raised wages by **35%** versus Uttar Pradesh's **21%**, deepening worker dissatisfaction
- Even after revisions, workers argue wages remain **inadequate** amid rising living costs, with concerns sharpening due to **inflation** from **global conflicts** and rising **LPG cylinder prices**

Slow wage growth

Growth of key parameters of 4000 listed entities

Financial year	Net Sales (NS) (in %)	Employee expenses (EE) (in %)	Earnings before interest, taxes, Depreciation & Amortization (EBITDA) (in %)	Profit after Tax (PAT) (in %)
2021	-3.3	4.6	24.3	112.2
2022	26.5	12.9	23.9	61
2023	22.9	16.8	12.1	3.6
2024	6.3	13	27.7	31.7

Wage stagnation

- As per an **SBI survey**, corporate profitability soared to a 15-year peak in **FY24** but wage growth for employees lagged
- Revenue of **4,000** listed companies rose **6%** in FY24, while the growth in their employee expenses slowed to **13%** from **17%** in FY23
- Profit grew by **22.3%**, but employment expanded by a mere **1.5%**
- Despite companies maintaining a stable EBITDA margin of **22%** over four years, wage growth has moderated

Minimum wages

Base wage: It is a fixed wage component ideally revised once every five years

Dearness allowance: It is linked to Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers and is revised twice a year

A misinterpreted **Central** notification created a false expectation that the new labour codes guaranteed a **Rs 20,000** minimum wage, fuelling some of the protests

Haryana revised base wages after about a decade, **Uttar Pradesh** after nearly 15 years. In **Karnataka**, it was last notified in 2017-18 and a draft on revision was issued in **April 2025**

Recent incidents

Barauni (Bihar)
On **February 2**, contractual workers at the **IOCL Barauni** refinery protested over long work hours, unpaid overtime, poor work conditions and demanded **PF** and **ESIC** benefits

Panipat (Haryana)
On **February 23**, around **30,000** IOCL refinery contractual workers protested over **low wages**, **long work hours**, **unsafe conditions** and **mistreatment** by contractors and management; the protest turned **violent**

Hazira, Surat (Gujarat)
On **February 27**, nearly **5,000** contract workers of **L&T** at the **AMNS** project site clashed with police over **8-hour shifts**, wage hikes and delayed payments

Gurugram (NCR)
On **April 3**, thousands of workers at **Honda Motorcycle** and Scooter India's Manesar plant protested for higher minimum wages. About **7,000** contract workers from over six companies in IMT joined the protest, demanding better pay and conditions

Noida (NCR): On **April 13–14**, the **Gurugram** agitation spread to **Noida** industrial belt, where about **40,000** workers at **80+** sites protested for wage revision; the demonstrations turned **violent**

Sources: Annual Survey of Industries, Policy Circle, Cline, SBI Research, Economic Survey 2024-25, CiteHR, CJP, media reports

COMPILED BY DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI DH GRAPHICS: GURU PRASATH R

Wage reform case in Karnataka

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Recently, thousands of factory workers across north Indian cities protested, demanding higher minimum wages and better working conditions. These workers earn between Rs 9,000 and Rs 12,000 a month.

In Karnataka, however, the situation is different. Karnataka offers some of the highest minimum wages in the country, second only to Delhi. At present, unskilled workers earn around Rs 16,000 per month, while semi-skilled workers receive about Rs 17,000. Skilled and highly skilled workers are paid approximately Rs 18,500 and Rs 19,900 respectively.

With the introduction of the new labour codes by the central government, state governments are required to revise wages across different categories of workers. An earlier proposal by the Karnataka government to increase minimum wages was challenged in the High Court and is still pending.

"This is now infructuous with the new labour codes coming into force. A fresh proposal will have to be made once rules are framed under the new code," says B C Prabhakar, President of the Karnataka Employers' Association.

The Karnataka government had earlier proposed increasing minimum wages for different categories to between Rs 22,000 and Rs 32,000 per month — levels that smaller industries within the state would find difficult to sustain, he says.

The Karnataka government is also drafting a new MSME Policy and has already held two rounds of consultation with key stakeholders.

"MSME units in the state, especially in Bengaluru, are grappling with an acute shortage of workers, as many ITI and diploma holders have shifted to e-commerce and quick commerce companies where they earn significantly more than what manufacturing units offer," adds a representative of the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association.

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Language education, from P1

Balancing regional identity with learning opportunity

If school education is to be taken seriously, constraints such as teacher availability cannot be accepted as given. In a learner-centric system, 'exam pressures' point to the need to reform assessment patterns. The onus is on the system to adapt to serve the best interests of the learner.

Further, policy documents are often riddled with loophole-laden phrases such as "where practicable," "as far as possible," "depending on resources," and "time permitting." These 'clawbacks' allow reluctant educational bureaucracies to stymie meaningful change. In a deeply unequal society like ours, educational disparities remain vast and persistent.

Widening inequalities

Over the years, the third-language education policy is not delivering meaningful outcomes: students are not learning the language well enough even to pass the exam, let alone acquire functional proficiency. It is also widening inequalities — the majority of those who fail are rural students, children from linguistic minorities and Indigenous children.

As is often the case worldwide, school systems tend to 'manufacture' failure among disadvantaged social groups. This happens through the standardisation of curricula, learning materials and pedagogies that are designed for socially advantaged learners, while neglecting the contexts of the disadvantaged. When such learners fail, the blame is frequently shifted onto them — they are labelled "uneducable." We need to seriously rethink how education systems can recognise their needs and support their aspirations.

Given the complexity of India's multilingualism, context sensitivity is essential. However, what forms it can take requires more thinking and consultation. While the need for context sensitivity has already been noted in relation to socially disadvantaged groups, it is equally relevant to linguistic diversity.

Language policy

Variations within each state — in patterns of language use across rural and urban areas, and in language mixing in border districts, to name just two — are significant. A context-sensitive curriculum that responds to these realities would enhance both the experience and the usefulness of learning multiple languages.

There is also an overarching reality about most Schedule VIII languages, which overwhelmingly serve as the languages of schooling in India. The states where they are widely spoken are the only places where these languages can be strengthened through the school education system.

Kannada, for instance, has limited educational presence outside Karnataka.

A strong Kannada language programme in the state's schools is therefore essential for the language to flourish. At scale, it cannot be strengthened elsewhere.

Language education in schools must, therefore, address regional linguistic identity and its vitality.

But does this mean educational opportunities must be compromised? Evidence from effective multilingual programmes worldwide suggests otherwise — it need not be an either-or choice.

A robust Kannada-language education system does not diminish educational opportunity.

With a well-designed programme, students can emerge as high-level multilinguals, academically proficient across multiple languages.

Beyond politics

Language education has always been deeply political. Our rich linguistic and cultural past, along with our fears and aspirations for the future, shapes how language policy is imagined and implemented today. Mother-tongue-based multilingual education directly addresses these concerns.

It envisions a progression "from the mother tongue to other tongues." These additional languages, in turn, metalinguistically strengthen the mother tongue. The critical thinking skills developed through this multilingual process transfer to the learning of other subjects. In all this, the learner's interests remain paramount.

(The author has worked with the School of Education, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. He blogs on language and education in English, and in the planned language Esperanto)

ROUTE REALITY | Children say long, bumpy rides are leaving them tired and anxious

For B'luru school kids, bad roads are part of the timetable

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

For 10-year-old Samaira, summer vacations are a relief, as she no longer spends nearly three hours every day commuting to and from school. "Earlier, I enjoyed riding in the school bus with my friends, but now I don't like it. The ride feels too long and sometimes dangerous. I once hit my head on the seat in front of me because of a pothole," she told DH. Many children across the city share similar experiences and hope road conditions improve before schools reopen.

For thousands of schoolchildren across Bengaluru, the daily commute had become exhausting even before the vacations began. Potholed stretches, waterlogged roads and poor infrastructure are not just inconveniences but growing safety hazards.

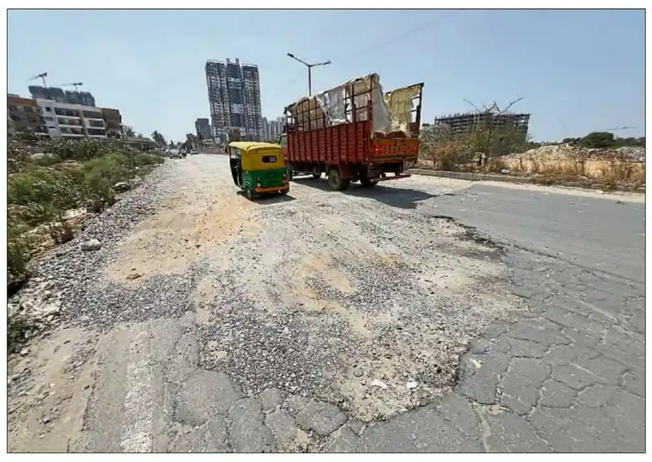
Over the past year, several incidents have highlighted the risks. In one case, a school bus on the Panathur-Balagere stretch tilted dangerously after a wheel sank into a cratered road, leaving students shaken and injured. During the monsoon, water-filled potholes often mask deep craters, leading to sudden jolts and minor accidents.

Parents and school authorities say these conditions are taking a toll. Children report longer travel times, anxiety during commutes and reluctance to attend school on days of heavy rain.

Twelfth-grade student Lasya Mohan Varma has been travelling on Varthur-Sarjapur Road for years. "My school is about 8 km away, and we take this road every day. It is narrow and full of potholes, and there are no proper alternate routes. Travelling on such roads is hazardous, and students have been injured multiple times. It is especially dangerous for younger children," she said. In 2024, she also started a campaign titled 'Our mobility, Our Voice' to push for better road infrastructure.

Students studying along the Varthur-Sarjapur stretch reported feeling exhausted due to long travel times caused by dusty, pothole-ridden roads.

While the main Panathur-Balagere Road has recently been fixed, the sub-arterial roads remain in poor condition.



Varthur-Sarjapur Road is dotted with craters of all shapes and sizes. DH PHOTOS/ASRA MAVAD

Reality check reveals no work

When *DH* visited parts of East Bengaluru, including Varthur, Sarjapur, Gunjur, Panathur, Balagere and Hosa Road, cratered roads and dust-choked stretches remained the norm. Several congested junctions were riddled with potholes and loose asphalt, making them unsafe even for cab and auto drivers. While the Panathur-Balagere stretch has seen some improvements, interior roads remain neglected.

"Based on internal tracking, many people spend between 2 and 3 hours daily commuting. Over time, this adds up to a substantial loss of productive and restorative time, which could otherwise be spent productively. Punctuality is another challenge. Traffic congestion and unpredictable road conditions often lead to delays, especially during critical times. This adds stress, particularly for senior students," said Nooraine Fazal, Co-founder, CEO, and Managing Trustee of Inventure Academy.

During *DH*'s visit to parts of North Bengaluru, parents, students and teachers reported similar issues, especially in Hennur and Bagaluru. Waterlogging remains a major concern for residents in these areas.

Working on road improvements: GBA

Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of the North City Corporation under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), said work had begun on waterlogging-prone areas ahead of the monsoon.

"We have already worked on key junctions such as Kogilu, Hebbal and Nagavara, among others. This year, there will be a great improvement in the waterlogging problem. Regarding potholes and fixing road conditions, our plan has been approved, but there has been a slight delay in the work because of the bitumen shortage due to the ongoing conflict in the Gulf," he told *DH*.

The East City Corporation will also take up road improvement works soon, said Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner (Developments). "Now that the corporation's budget has been approved and announced, we will soon start road improvement projects. We have zeroed in on some stretches, such as Varthur-Sarjapur and Balagere, among others," he added.

Choose schools closer to home: Police chief

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said choosing neighbourhood schools could help ease traffic. "Opting for a school that takes two to three hours of commute in a school bus is a choice. People need to be more cognisant of this and instead opt for a school much closer to home. Reducing the dependency on private unauthorised school vans will also help reduce the traffic load," he said.

BWSSB proposes installing RWH systems for consumers

Move aims to reduce dependence on Cauvery and groundwater

BENGALURU, DHNS

To promote rainwater harvesting (RWH), the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has proposed that the board will undertake the installation of RWH systems at consumers' houses.

The move comes in the light of the Meteorological Department's forecast of a deficit in the upcoming monsoon, which makes it important to increase groundwater levels and reduce dependence on surface water.

"With the objective of further accelerating the RWH campaign in the city, BWSSB itself has come forward to install state-of-the-art and innovative rainwater harvesting systems in the buildings of willing customers," said Dr Ramprasat Manohar V, Chairman, BWSSB.

At present, consumers without an RWH system are being levied a penalty on their monthly bill. According to an estimate, close to Rs 3 crore is being collected in penalties every month from nearly 49,400 households that have failed to install such systems.

Under this scheme, BWSSB will install the rainwater harvesting system in the buildings of willing customers, and the installation cost will be recovered in phases equivalent to the monthly penalty amount currently paid by the customers.

"Over time, this will not only save customers from the hassle of paying penalties but also significantly reduce their monthly water bills," the BWSSB said in a statement. For customers who hesitate to install RWH due to space constraints, a new third-generation technology is being introduced that can be installed in very little space. This will significantly reduce the reliance on Cauvery water and groundwater, the statement noted.

The new technology is equipped with an SS316 mesh featuring an anti-choke weave, and the streamliner design inside the filter maximises the velocity of the incoming water. This innovative RWH system has already been implemented on a pilot basis at 75 locations.

Manohar said that detailed discussions regarding the implementation of the project will be held at the upcoming BWSSB board meeting and a final decision will then be taken.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

Earth Day: Activists question environmental cost of dairy

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group of young activists gathered on Indiranagar's 100 Feet Road on Saturday to stage a public installation highlighting the environmental and ethical impact of India's dairy industry.

The protest, part of a coordinated 20-city campaign following Earth Day, aimed to draw attention to the sector's high water consumption and its connection to the beef trade.

The activists highlighted that India, the world's largest milk producer, is also a leading beef exporter. They argued that the two industries are inextricably linked, as dairy cattle are often moved into the beef supply chain once their milk production declines.

Water stress concerns

The protest comes at a time when Bengaluru is facing water anxiety. Activists cited data showing that producing one litre of milk in India requires 1,078 litres of water.

"In a city where 65 wards are facing shortages, we have to question the footprint of what we consume," said Sanjiv, a local resident and activist. The group noted that major dairy-producing states, including Karnataka and Punjab, are currently grappling with severe groundwater stress.

The campaign also focused on methane emissions, noting that India's livestock emits roughly 12.7 million tonnes of methane annually. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and a significant driver of short-term global warming.

Musician Vasu Dixit, who supported the drive, said that while food choices are often tied to culture and geography, consumers must be aware of their impact on nature.

The protesters called on policymakers to transition towards food systems that prioritise climate goals and resource conservation.

TCS World 10K run: Avoid these roads today

BENGALURU, DHNS

As the city hosts the TCS World 10K Marathon on Sunday, with over 30,000 participants expected to hit the streets, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have issued an advisory on road closures, diversions and no-parking zones effective from 5 am to 11 am.

The marathon will flag off and conclude at the RSAOI Ground. The route covers Cubbon Road, Kamaraj Road, Raj Bhavan Road and Ambedkar Road, spanning Halasuru, Fraser Town and Shivajinagar.

Major road closures

To facilitate the runners, vehicle movement will be completely restricted on:

Cubbon Road: No traffic will be allowed between CTO Junction and Manipal Centre.

Vidhana Soudha access: Entry towards Vidhana Soudha is strictly prohibited for all vehicles.

Other restricted routes: St John's Road (Dickenson Road to Veerapillai Street), Kamaraj Road, and portions of Infantry Road and Lady Curzon Road will remain closed during the event hours.

Alternative routes

Towards Majestic/City Market: Vehicles from Queens Road will be diverted at Balekundri Junction via Cunningham Road and Chandri Junction to reach Chalukya Circle.

BMTC movement: Buses from Shivajinagar Bus Stand heading to Majestic or KR Market must travel via Venkataswamy Naidu Road and Cunningham Road.

Eastbound traffic: Commuters heading from MG Road towards Halasuru should use Webbs Junction, Trinity Junction and Swami Vivekananda Road.

Heavy vehicles: Large goods vehicles are barred from the CBD. Those on Old Madras Road must divert at NGEF Junction via Suranjan Das Road to reach Old Airport Road.

Parking and commute

No-parking zones include Kasturba Road, St Mark's Road and the periphery of Cubbon Park. Participants and spectators can utilise paid parking at UB City, Shivajinagar Bus Stand or Shobha Mall on Church Street. Official parking is also available at the MS Building and the Scouts and Guides Ground.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced that Namma Metro services will begin early at 3.30 am on Sunday. The traffic police have strongly urged citizens to opt for the Metro or public transport to reach the venue and avoid congestion in the city centre.

ONLY FOR 4 DAYS
26th APRIL 2026
01st 02nd 03rd MAY 2026
RAMBO CIRCUS
ROBOTIC ELEPHANT
BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW book my show | 8306430643
ST.JOHN'S AUDITORIUM
OPP BDA COMPLEX, GATE NO.5, KORAMANGALA

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Rheumatology Awareness Walkathon: Organised by the Indian Rheumatology Association; West Gate, Lalbagh; 7 am.

Lions International District 317A Golden Jubilee: Guests include Vijaykumar Raju, K Vamshidhar Babu, V V Krishna Reddy, and N Mohankumar; G Mohan to preside; Bunts Sangha Hall, Vijayanagar; 7.45 am.

Inauguration of Param Science Experience Centre: Guests include Kris Gopalakrishnan and K Radhakrishnan; Param Foundation; Parsec, JP Tech Park, Whitefield; 10.10 am.

Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet 2026: In the presence of Bhajan Lal Sharma; the Government of Rajasthan; Hotel Lalit Ashok, Kumara Krupa Road; 12 pm.

CULTURAL

Book Release: Baraguru Ramachandrappa's 'Shreshtateya Sokku' to be released by Banu Mushtaq; Rajendra Chenni to be guest; HS Raghavendra Rao to preside; The Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road, Basavanagudi; 10.30 am.

International Dance Day and Srishti National Achievement Awards: Guests include Chandrashekhara Kambara, Ramalinga Reddy, Tejasvi Surya, Shalini Rajneesh, and MA Saleem; Bharatanatyam by Pratibha Prahlad; 'Karimayi' dance drama directed by B Jayashree; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5 pm.

Birth Centenary of Rashtrakavi Dr GS Shivarudrappa: 'Akashada Neeliyalli' musical programme by Vinay Nadig and troupe; Aviratha; Kondajji Basappa Auditorium, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Palace Road; 5.30 pm.

Weekend Theatre Festival: Performance of the play 'Mr Rao and Associates' by Antaranga Bahiranga; Written by Bhishma Ramaiah and directed by Bosh Raghavendra; KEA Prabhath Rangamandira, Basaveshwaranagar; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky
TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.0°C
Minimum	24.8°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	32%
Sunset (April 26)	6:34 pm
Sunrise (April 27)	6:02 am
Moonrise	1:25 pm
Moonset	1:33 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DS MAX
8880 003 003
www.dsmaxproperties.com
ಡಿಎಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸ್ಕೈ ಸಂಪದ
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/291225/008366
CREDAI BENGALURU
DS MAX SKY SAMPADHA
2 & 3-BHK HOMES ▲ G+22 FLOORS ▼
HOSUR ROAD - 10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY
2-BHK ₹63 LAKHS*
3-BHK ₹92 LAKHS*
ONWARDS
Not just location. Not just price.
Our past projects have witnessed up to
2X Growth in 3 Years*
This could be your next smart move...
*T & C Apply
2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 G+14
WHITEFIELD
10 MINS. HOPEFARM METRO
₹ 72.86 L - 1.32 Cr*
8880 461 461
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724 G+14
SILKBOARD
NEAR SINGASANDRA METRO STN.
₹ 91.27 L - 1.47 Cr*
8880 013 310
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524 G+14
AIRPORT ROAD
NEAR PRESTIGE TECH IT PARK
₹ 87.89 L - 1.21 Cr*
8880 465 465
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14
MYSORE ROAD
NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.
₹ 75.00 L - 1.06 Cr*
8880 461 461
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/281125/008287 G+14
JIGANI
5 MINS. APC CIRCLE
₹ 60.78 - 95.35 Lakhs*
8880 003 003
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489 G+3
BANASHANKARI
OPP. NPS SCHOOL (3 & 4-BHK)
₹ 1.45 - 2.17 Cr*
8880 461 461
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178 G+14
YELAHANKA
5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE
₹ 54.85 - 97.21 Lakhs*
8880 465 465
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14
BANNERGHATTA RD.
NEAR KOPPA GATE
₹ 59.86 - 85.23 Lakhs*
8880 013 310
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/230126/008427 G+4
SARJAPURA
SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD
₹ 60.01 - 83.25 Lakhs*
8880 003 003
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 G+4
HOSA ROAD METRO
NEAR ELECTRONIC CITY
₹ 80.01 L - 1.44 Cr*
8880 013 310
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/190301/002464 G+4
WHITEFIELD
5 MINS. KADUGODI METRO
₹ 72.00 - 88.00 Lakhs*
8880 461 461
Visit our website or talk to our advisors for the complete portfolio
Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in
*T & C Apply

Mega coaching terminal in Yelahanka: Somanna

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Saturday said a new mega coaching terminal was planned in Yelahanka in northern Bengaluru.

He added that an integrated container logistics terminal would be set up at Thimmarajanahalli in Tumakuru, which was expected to create jobs. Somanna also announced plans to quadruple the Bengaluru-Tumakuru railway line and start a new MEMU train service from Yelahanka to Arsikere via Yeshwantpur and Tumakuru.

He said the Rayadurga–Tumakuru (207 km) new railway line project was progressing well and was likely to be completed by December 2027. Work on the Tumakuru-Davangere-Chitradurga railway line is also progressing well, he added.

Somanna laid the foundation stone for pedestrian subways.

The subway near Kyatsandra railway station, at old level crossing number 36, is being taken up at an approximate cost of Rs 5.5 crore, while the one at Maruthi Nagar, between Tumakuru and Kyatsandra stations, is estimated to cost Rs 3.5 crore. Both projects will be completed by January 2027, he said.

2 B'luru-Mumbai trains, B'luru-M'luru Vande Bharat soon: Rail min

Vande Bharat sleeper to Mumbai, superfast via Hubballi & VB for coastal K'taka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday announced two new Bengaluru-Mumbai trains, including a Vande Bharat sleeper, in the coming months.

The second train will be a superfast service with LHB coaches via Hubballi, he added.

He said a Vande Bharat (seater) train connecting Bengaluru and Mangaluru would also be launched soon as technical hurdles had been cleared.

Railway tracks between Hassan and Mangaluru have been electrified, and testing and trials are underway. Automated Emergency Braking (AEB) systems have been integrated for safety on steep coastal gradients, he added.

"Within the next few months, we will have a Vande Bharat bewteen Bengaluru and Mangaluru and towards Madgaon," he stated.

Vaishnaw visited BEML's Thippasandra campus and inaugurated a specialised complex to manufacture high-speed B-28 trains, also called Bharat-made bullet trainsets.

Noting that high-speed rail technology is incredibly complex and intricate, he said its development within the country marks a milestone for indigenous engineering. He hoped that the advent of these trains will cause major cities to be seen as extensions of one another. He cited how travel time between Chennai and Bengaluru would fall to 73 minutes.

The KSR Bengaluru-CSMT Mumbai Vande Bharat sleeper will run via Guntakal and Kalaburagi with a travel time of 16 hours, as *DH* reported earlier.

Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw with BEML Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Ray at the high-speed rail manufacturing complex in Bengaluru on Saturday. PHOTO/SWR

Trade activist Sajjan Raj Mehta suggested a travel time of around 15 hours with 3AC fares significantly below air tickets.

The superfast train via Hubballi will be the bi-weekly announced in December, a source in the South Western Railway (SWR) said.

That service - 16553/16554 SMVT Bengaluru-LTT Mumbai-SMVT Bengaluru - was estimated to cover 1,209 km in about 24 hours at an average speed of 52 kmph, below the threshold for a superfast train.

The source said that while the route would remain the same, the train's travel time would shorten because it would be upgraded to a superfast train.

The Bengaluru-Mangaluru Vande Bharat will be an extension of the existing service between Mangaluru and Madgaon (20645/20646), the source said. "The plan is to start the train from both Bengaluru and Madgaon in the morning using two separate rakes," the source added. Travel time will be at least an hour shorter than the current fastest train.

Suburban rail progress 'very good'

The Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) has made "very good" progress following the appointment of a technical person as the head of its implementing agency, Vaishnaw said.

"We had requested the state government to appoint a technical person as MD (to K-RIDE - the implementation agency). The state agreed. The prime minister recently reviewed the progress. The work in the last few months has been very good. There's been good progress on land acquisition too," he added.

e-Khata can now be downloaded using property tax ID

BENGALURU, DHNS

Now, property owners in the Greater Bengaluru Area can download their e-Khata certificate using their SAS property tax ID. The move is expected to ease access to property records and reduce delays.

The initiative, rolled out by the five Bengaluru city corporations, follows the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru in-charge minister DK Shivakumar. Officials said the system has been introduced to make nearly 13 lakh e-Khatas immediately available to citizens online and eliminate red tape in obtaining the documents.

Citizens can access the service through the official portal, log in using their mobile number and OTP, enter the SAS application property tax ID and instantly download the e-Khata. The new feature removes the need to search records using owner names and allows access at any time without visiting civic body offices.

Property owners will also receive ready-to-download e-Khata links through SMS or WhatsApp on their registered mobile numbers in the property tax database.

The civic body has advised citizens not to approach staff or officers for the service and to avoid middlemen.

Officials also noted that the e-Khatas are being issued on an "as-is-where-is" basis based on existing records. To make the documents fully complete and eligible for property transactions at sub-registrar offices, owners will need to update details online, including Aadhaar-based e-KYC, registered sale deed details, GPS location and photograph of the property, and BESCOM ID where applicable.

Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority M Maheshwar Rao urged all property owners to download their e-Khata at the earliest.

Truck driver bludgeoned to death

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 45-year-old truck driver from Tamil Nadu was allegedly bludgeoned to death in Kadugodi on Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Ramachandra, who was staying alone in the city. The assailants attacked him with a brick near Patalamma temple, where he slept regularly.

A senior police officer said Ramachandra was allegedly involved in an affair with a woman, a vegetable vendor. Her husband, who had earlier warned him to stay away from his wife, is suspected to have plotted the murder along with family members after the relationship continued. Kadugodi police have detained a suspect for further interrogation.

RT Nagar resident booked for verbally abusing census staff

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) officials have filed a complaint against an unknown individual for verbally abusing staff on census duty.

According to a statement by the corporation, on April 20, Veena, an enumerator assigned to Ward Number 43, visited Peri Monarch Apartment near Sultanpalya Main Road, RT Nagar, to collect census information. However, the resident refused to provide the required details.

"Subsequently, on April 25, during verification, Rashmi R, Supervisor (Circle 2), visited the location and sought the necessary census information. The resident not only refused to cooperate but also obstructed the census work and verbally abused the female staff using inappropriate language," the BNCC statement said.

The BNCC officials have now registered a case against the individual under Section 11(1) of the Census Act, 1948, and Sections 223 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

BNCC Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar appealed to the public to cooperate with enumerators and provide accurate information, as it is the legal duty of every citizen.

"Census work is a matter of national importance, and obstructing officials in the discharge of their duties is a punishable offence. Strict legal action will be taken against such acts," he said.

Gold loan fraud sparks protest outside Girinagar bank

Assistant manager held for stealing pledged jewellery

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tension prevailed in Girinagar after a group of customers staged a protest on Thursday in front of Indian Bank's branch in the locality, alleging large-scale misappropriation of pledged gold ornaments by an assistant manager to fund his online betting addiction.

The protest comes in the wake of a complaint filed by the bank's Chief Manager, Dilip Kumar, with the police on February 5, 2026, detailing a major fraud involving gold loan accounts.

A senior police officer said that according to the FIR, the irregularities came to light on February 2 when a female customer approached the Girinagar branch to close her gold loan account. During the process of returning the pledged ornaments, branch manager Trupti Jha found that some jewellery was missing from the packet. The issue was immediately reported to the bank's zonal office.

Following this, zonal office authorities conducted a comprehensive audit of all gold loan packets in the branch. The branch had 207 gold loan packets sanctioned between January 10, 2025, and January 31, 2026, and the inspection revealed that ornaments were partially missing in 21 packets. Gold connected to three packets and worth Rs 4.12 crore was found missing.

The suspect, Kiran Kumar E, had been working as an assistant manager at the Girinagar branch since June 24, 2025, and remained absent subsequently. He later appeared before officials at the zonal office and reportedly confessed to stealing gold ornaments from pledged packets. In his statement, he claimed that no other staff members were involved in the crime.

He further disclosed that he had pledged the stolen jewellery at multiple private financial institutions in Kathriguppe and MS Palya, and produced receipts of the pledged gold before officials. Based on the complaint, Kiran Kumar was arrested and remanded in judicial custody.

Meanwhile, a group of angry customers gathered outside the branch, accusing the bank of negligence and demanding accountability. Many said they had pledged their family gold in good faith while availing loans and now feared losses. They urged the bank authorities to ensure full recovery of the ornaments and strict action against those responsible.

Some customers are unable to get back their remaining gold, as the bank authorities have claimed that since the case is under investigation and the lockers have been seized, they cannot return the ornaments yet, the protesters alleged.

Girinagar police said they are yet to file a chargesheet before the court, and the bank staff will have to get court permission to hand over the ornaments to the customers.

Govt's free 2nd medical opinion programme gets poor response

HARSHA
MANGALURU, DHNS

The state government's Free Second Medical Opinion Programme, launched by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao in Bengaluru in November 2024, has received a lukewarm response from the people in the year 2025-26.

The initiative, designed to provide critical second opinions on medical procedures to those in need, recorded just one call in the financial year 2025-26, a stark contrast to the 98 calls received in its inaugural year, according to information obtained from Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust under RTI by *DH*. The Trust runs the programme.

The programme allows patients to access specialist doctors through a 24x7 toll-free helpline (1800 425 8330) and offers the option to share medical records via WhatsApp for a detailed diagnosis.

The specialists not only cleared doubts about the necessity of surgery but also provided second opinions for procedures, like knee replacement and hip replacement surgeries, sources said.

Columnist M Gautham Machaiah, in a post on social platform X, had said, "This initiative, where specialist doctors will provide expert guidance for complex surgeries, is a game-changer for those who can't afford a second opinion."

Ulthooru Pratap Shetty, advisor to the Mahalingeshwara Yuvaka Mandala near Kota (Udupi), said, "The government spends a lot of money during the launch of noble initiatives. But it does not hold any awareness programmes to sustain such people-friendly initiatives."

Dr Annaiah Kulal of the Sarvajna Second Opinion Centre in Mangaluru, who has been providing free second opinions for over 10 years in Mangaluru, emphasised the importance of trust in medical advice, noting that he still sees several patients seeking clarification on their diagnoses.

"Some of them are even from other states. A patient is willing to seek a second medical opinion when trust is firmly established," he said.

Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, during a recent visit to Mangaluru, told *DH*, "We need to look into the reasons (for the poor response from the people for this programme) and release advertisements (to create awareness about it among the masses)."

SECOND MEDICAL OPINION SERVICE

	2024-25	2025-26
Calls received (Toll-free helpline)	98	1
Reports shared on WhatsApp	16	1

CLASSICAL TRIBUTE

Vocalist Parveen Sultana performs Hindustani music at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan during the B N Gopal birth centenary event on Saturday. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Mangaluru airport bags CII zero waste certification

MANGALURU, DHNS: Mangaluru International Airport Limited has achieved the Zero Waste to Landfill (ZWL) Certification from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), marking a significant milestone in its sustainability journey and reaffirming its commitment to responsible environmental stewardship.

The airport has been awarded the Platinum Class I Rating, the highest category under the certification, after demonstrating an exceptional landfill diversion rate of more than 99% through waste management practices and strict adherence to sustainability benchmarks.

The certification follows a comprehensive and rigorous audit conducted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which evaluated the airport's waste segregation, handling, treatment, recycling and compliance processes. The assessment recognised the airport's implementation of the 5R principles, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle, across airport operations.

India's low-cost air quality sensors are not yet ready for deployment

BENGALURU, DHNS: As low-cost air quality sensors are seen as agents that can bring a paradigm shift in understanding air pollution and take corrective measures, especially in developing countries, a new study shows that much needs to be done before deploying them on the ground due to the problems in getting reliable data.

Bengaluru-based think tank Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) took up an eight-month-long study of 48 sensor devices from six manufacturers who supply the devices in India.

The sensors were co-located alongside a reference-grade air quality monitoring station (AQMS).

"None of the sensor manufacturers met the precision targets for NO2 (Nitrogen dioxide) and O3 (Ozone)," the study said, noting that the manufacturer-reported sensor data can vary substantially between devices and across manufacturers, when compared with the reference data from AQMS.

Specifically, the devices capped NO2 and reported fixed values for O3, which risks underreporting of the pollution levels. NO2 is a precursor gas that eventually leads to the formation of PM 2.5, the harmful fine particulate matter that is associated with lung diseases. The O3 pollution has similar impacts on human health.

Calibration is key

The researchers developed locally tailored correction methods that significantly improved sensor performance. This especially held true for key pollutants, such as NO2 and O3. The study recommended that low-cost sensors must be calibrated before deployment.

As environmental factors such as weather and pollution patterns differ from place to place, calibration of models should reflect these realities to ensure accurate readings.

"Low-cost sensors have the potential for multiple air-quality-related applications if the data can be made reliable. At Indi-SET, we test the performance of sensors, enabling users to assess the reliability of their devices," Dr Emil Varghese, Senior Associate at CSTEP and one of the authors of the report, said in a statement.

SPICE TRAIL

Karnataka leads in registration of pepper varieties

NRUPATHUNGA S K
SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS

Karnataka, the leading producer of pepper cultivation in the country, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu, has continued its dominance with the registration of four new indigenous pepper varieties under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) recently.

In total, 17 varieties have been registered in the country so far. Of them, 11 are from Karnataka, five are from Kerala, and one is from Chhattisgarh.

Sources in Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga, said that four farmers from Uttara Kannada district have developed the four pepper varieties in their farm lands, experts have approved them and issued certificates.

The expiry period of ownership over the varieties is 18 years.

Kadamba Marketing Cooperative Society Advisor Sridhar Bhat told *DH* that Subraya Ganapathi Hegde has developed the 'Master Kare' variety, and Gopalakrishna Ganapathi Hegade is credited with the development of the 'Basari Balli' variety.

Nagesha Subraya Hegade has developed the 'Mallisara' variety, and Ramachandra Ganapathi Bhat is credited with the development of the 'Kurimale' variety. Subrayaya Hegde has registered over 18 pepper varieties under his name.

The University's Areca Research Centre Head Nagaraj Adiveppar said, "The main objective of registering indigenous varieties under PPV&FRA is to help our farmers to get recognition at the global level for their efforts and also to preserve such varieties."

"As of now, these four varieties have been registered, and research studies on these varieties will be taken up in the coming days," he added.

Sirsi-based Horticultural Research and Extension Centre Scientist Sudheesh Kulkarni told *DH* that the 'Kurimale' is a farmer-friendly variety that grows well in open conditions with long spikes and is marked by a large number of good-sized berries; sometimes, it produces two spikes at a single point.

The 'Basariballi' variety produces geotropes like a forest tree, Basari Mara (hence, the name 'Basariballi'). This variety is found to be tolerant to phythophthora disease. The berries have a good weight or bulk density.

The 'Mallisara' variety produces medium-sized spikes with good weight, which is important for the export of pepper. Spike arrangement looks like a Mala (garland). That's why it is called as 'Mallisara'.

The 'Master Kare' variety looks like a Panniyur 1 variety. "When we observe the shoot's tip, then only can we confirm that it is different from the Panniyur 1. This genotype produces longer spikes with more than 200 berries per spike," Kulkarni said.

These four local varieties or land races may act as a substitute for the leading varieties in pepper. So, these varieties have to be multiplied either by the farmer or by any other institute to make planting material for other farmers.

In this regard, the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, is planning to get a memorandum of agreement for the production of quality planting materials of these land races and supply to the needy farmers.

The newly developed 'Kurimale' pepper variety grows well in open conditions with long spikes and is marked by a large number of good-sized berries; sometimes, it produces two spikes at a single point.

BASE University convocation tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS

The second convocation of Dr B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University, Bengaluru, will be held on April 27, where degrees of the last two academic years will be awarded.

Addressing a news conference on Saturday, Vice Chancellor Prof Vishwanath said that Governor-Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot will preside over the convocation.

Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar would participate and former member of the Planning Commission of India Prof B L Mungekar would deliver the convocation address.

At the convocation, degrees for the past two academic years would be awarded. In these two batches, six gold medals, 17 rank certificates, and 171 degree certificates would be awarded to students.

Gold medals will be awarded to Meghana B Prashid (5-year Integrated MSc course, 2019–24), Parvathi J (2020–25 batch), Gauri Agarwal (2-year M.Sc. Economics, 2022–24 batch), Divya U (2023–25 batch), Neha M (Financial Economics, 2023–24), and Priyanshu Shekhar (2023–25 batch), he said.

Introduction of six new courses

The university has been established to become a premier economics institution in the country. However, to gain admission to undergraduate or postgraduate courses here, students must have studied economics along with mathematics. Since such courses are not available in the state, even though 60% of seats are reserved for Karnataka students, admission has been difficult, he said.

Moreover, admissions are only through the Common University Entrance Test conducted by NTA, making entry for state students challenging.

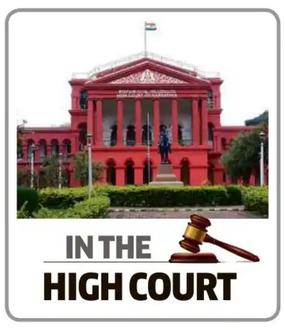
Keeping in mind the needs of state students, six new courses, focusing solely on economics, would be introduced from the next academic year. They are a three-year BSc Data Analytics, a two-year MSc Data Analytics, a five-year Integrated MA Economics, a two-year MA Economics, MSc Development Economics and an MSc Public Policy.

The university has infrastructure for 1,250 students. Currently, 250 students are studying. Since it is a residential university, if student numbers increase, hostel facilities would be insufficient. The government has not provided the promised funds, and permanent faculty appointments have not yet been made, Prof Vishwanath said.

Registrar Mamatha Devi G S, Controller of Examinations Dr Mohammed Shameer K, and Finance Officer Prashanth Kumar M V were present at the press conference.

Setback rule: High Court says high rises can't pose threat to public

Dismisses writ appeal filed by real estate firm



BENGALURU, DHNS

The high-rise buildings with pocket apartments, regardless of the luxury they provide, cannot be permitted to stand at the risk of the general public, particularly the residents of the building and others in the neighbouring and nearby vicinities, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

A Division Bench comprising Justices D K Singh and T M Nadaf said this while dismissing the writ appeal filed by a real estate firm regarding the setback to be left as per the NOC by the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department.

The appeal was filed by Vishnu Sri Builders and Developers, Bengaluru, challenging the single bench order with regard to the modified sanction plan in respect of an apartment complex at Halagevaderahalli in Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

The firm initially challenged the revised fire NOC dated June 13, 2023. The Fire department, after conducting a fresh inspection as per the directions of the single bench, stated that the required setback of eight meters was not available around the building for easy movement of fire vehicle and it is difficult to conduct rescue operations during the emergency.

The single bench passed an order that the modified sanction plan would be kept in abeyance till the same is brought in conformity with the requirement of setback as mentioned in the Fire NOC.

After perusing the material on the appeal filed by the firm, the division bench said that as per the Fire Department report, along with the sketch of the building, the vehicle movement with aerial ladder is not possible in the emergency rescue operations.

"We have noticed from the inspection report of the fire department, in terms of the direction issued by this Court, that the setback as contented by the appellant before us has not been left and even if it is left since the turning radius of fire engines with aerial Ladder is more than 9 metres and no sufficient space is available on the spot for easy movement of the fire vehicles, in the event any disaster. The builder in the case on hand knew it very well regarding the permissible construction, however for best reasons known to him not left the setback, which is clear from the report of the fire department," the division bench said.

The bench further noted that high rise buildings cannot be permitted to stand at the risk of general public and nearby vicinities.

"This is based on the principle that the private interest stands subordinate to the public interest and public good. The exercise of such a governance by the local authorities are justified on account of its being reasonably necessary for the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the apartment as well as nearby vicinities," the bench said.

Fraudsters cheat 61-year-old man of Rs 2 crore in digital arrest scam

MANGALURU, DHNS: In a digital arrest scam, a 61-year-old man was allegedly cheated of Rs 2.07 crore by fraudsters posing as the National Investigation Agency officials.

According to the complaint, the victim received a phone call on March 31 from an unknown mobile number. The caller introduced himself in English as an officer from the National Data Protection Centre and claimed that the complainant's identity card had been misused by a Mumbai-based person to purchase a SIM card.

The caller further alleged that the SIM card was being used to send threatening calls, obscene photographs and videos to the citizens in Mumbai, and was also involved in drug trafficking activities.

The complainant was told that 30 to 50 FIRs might have been registered against him at the Colaba Police Station in Mumbai.

The fraudsters then informed the victim that officials from the NIA and ED would conduct an inquiry and provide clearance. Subsequently, the complainant received WhatsApp calls, during which the callers identified themselves as Sandeep Rao, an NIA officer, and later connected him to a supposed senior officer named Matthew, who claimed to be an ADGP.

During the interaction, the callers collected the complainant's personal details and later directed him to speak with another person, who identified himself as Vilas Rao Patel, claiming to be an ED officer. The accused allegedly threatened the complainant, stating that records showed he was a major criminal involved in multiple cases and terrorist activities.

Fearing legal action, the complainant transferred money in multiple stages between April 7 and April 18. In total, a sum of Rs 2,07,04,600 was transferred to various bank accounts provided by the fraudsters. Having realised that he had been cheated, he registered a complaint at the CEN station.

Janivara row: Unacceptable, says Dinesh Gundu Rao

BENGALURU, DHNS

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday described as "inhumane" the act of forcing students to remove earrings, bangles, hijab, the sacred thread and chopping off their long sleeves with scissors.

"This undermines the morale of students and is unacceptable and condemnable," Rao, the Brahmin face in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet, said in a statement.

Rao was reacting to three Brahmin students being asked to take off their sacred thread (janivara) to write the Common Entrance Test (CET) at the Krupanidhi College. "A complaint has already been registered in this regard, and the police are conducting an investigation. Action will be taken transparently within the framework of the law. Students and parents need not have any anxiety over this matter," Rao said.

"Examination centres must be places that test students' knowledge, not spaces that harm their dignity. The government will take very serious measures to ensure that such incidents do not recur in our state," Rao said and urged students not to lose courage.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Project Organisation)

1.	Tender Notice No & Date	Proj1MS_PRS_2026_01 Dated 25.04.2026
2.	Name of the work	Provision of Routers and Switches with Perpetual Licence and 3 Years Comprehensive Warranty for PRS Modernisation at Tier 2 & Tier 3 Locations over Southern Railway
3.	Tender value in Crores of Rupees	Rs.28,80,75,055.06
4.	Bid Security (EMD) in Lakhs of Rupees	Rs.57,61,500.00
5.	Validity offer	90 days from the date of opening of tender
6.	Closing Date & Time	19.05.2026 15.00 hrs
7.	Period of completion	09 (Nine) Months.

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to the tender is issued can be accessed through (www.ireps.gov.in).

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer,
Project-I, Chetpet, Chennai - 31.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Electrical (Construction) Branch.
OPEN TENDER NIT No.: JBP/LC/T/2026/01
The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders from the reputed and experienced contractors having valid 'A' class Electrical License (in the name of Firm or with one of the partner or in his own name if sole proprietor) issued by any state Govt. through ON-Line for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored., **NIT No.-** JBP/LC/T/2026/01 dt: 24.04.2026, **Name of work with location-** Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of Automatic Fault Locator (AFL) for 2x25 KV AC traction system based on auto transformer neutral current ratio for TSS, SP and SSP in Rewa - Sidhi - Singrauli and Satna-Panna Khajuraho section of Jabalpur division of West Central Railway in connection with electrification of Lalitpur-Singrauli new BG line Project, **Approx cost of the work (in Rs.) -** Rs 6,14,99,092. 21, **Cost of tender form -** Nil, **Address of the office.-** Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction)/Jabalpur, G-floor, CPM-Project office building, Opposite MP Tourism office, JBP-482001., **Bid Security (in Rs.) -** Rs 12,30,000/-, **Completion period -** 12 months, **Date & Time for submission of tender-** 18.05.2026 (Up to 15.00 hrs.), **Date & Time for opening of tender-** 18.05.2026 (at 15.30 hrs.), Complete details of tender document available on the Railway website https://ireps.gov.in and also placed on notice boards of Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), Jabalpur.

Sd./-
Deputy Chief Elect. Eng. (Construction),
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
NOTIFICATION
Hubballi, 13 April, 2026

S.O. 1861(E).--In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act No. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railways (South Western Railway, Hubballi) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Name of Villages	Taluk	District
1	**Yelahanka - Bangarapet:** Construction of ROB in lieu of LC 148 at Km. 130/200-300 between Jannagatta Halt - Kolar Stations.	Bangarpet	Bangarpet	Kolar
2	**Yelahanka - Bangarapet:** Construction of ROB in lieu of LC 150 at Km. 132/700-800 between Kolar to Hudukula Station.	Bangarpet	Bangarpet	Kolar
3	**Baiyyappanahalli - Dharma varam:** Construction of ROB in lieu of LC 35 between stations Oddarahalli and Makalidurga at Km. 45/100-200.	Vaddarhalli	Dodda ballapur	Bengaluru Rural

[F.No. SWR/W352/RSP/Land/LC 150 148 35/2026]

Sd/-
Ningappa Chandappa Chaluwadi
Deputy Chief Engineer/Road Over Bridges/
Road Safety Projects

PUB/48/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 08/SBC/26 of 16-04-2026

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru Division: Sub Work - I:** CTR(S) of exg 90R rails on CST-9 sleepers with 52kg 90UTS rails on 52kg PSC sleepers at 1540 density for a length of 7.05 kms in FCI siding at WFD section in Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section (Balance Work). **Sub Work - II:** CTR(S) of exg 90R/52 Kg Rails on CST-9/52 Kg PSC Sleepers with 52Kg/90UTS Rails on 52 Kg PSC sleeprs at 1540 density for a length of 1.741km in FCI siding at KJM yard in Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru section. (Balance Work)	Rs. 1,95,70,037/-
2	**Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section:** Proposed improvements to road surface of Level Crossing Gates in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Bangarapet sub-division in Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Section LC Nos. 94, 96, 103, 118, 119, 122, 125, 126 and Yelhanka Bangarapet section LC Nos. 166, 163, 162, 124, 148 and Bangarapet Marikuppam section LC No.1 (Total 14 LCs). Maintenance period is 6 month	Rs. 65,19,809/-
3	**Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section :** **Sub Work - I:** Proposed construction of Type-II quarters (4 units) at Mulanur (MAR) station including electrical portion. **Sub Work - II:** Proposed construction of Crew Lobby at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) including electrical portions. **Sub Work - III:** Assistant Divisional Engineer / Bangarpet Sub division: Improvements of Divyangjan facilities at Tyakal, Kamasamudram, Bisanattam, Gudupalli, Mulanur, Patchur, Coromandel, Oorgaum, Champion, Kolar, Srinivasapura, Chintamani Stations including electrical portions. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 4,67,45,665/-
4	**Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section :** Provision of Automatic signaling between Whitefield (WFD) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section - Construction of Auto Goomties buildings including electrical portion. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 8,90,39,648/-
5	**Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarpet Sub-Division:** Proposed Construction of new S and T building including electrical portion at Bisanatham (BSM) station. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 1,99,83,973/-
6	**Bengaluru - Yeliyur Section:** Extension of Bridge No. 455 at Km. 11/000-100 and Bridge No. 456 at Km. 11/462 at Kengeri (KGI) yard for yard improvements. Maintenance period is 4 years.	Rs. 1,66,27,717/-
7	**Bengaluru Division:** Provision of water cooler at KSR Bengaluru (SBC) - 14 Nos, Yelahanka (YNK) - 9 Nos, Bidadi (BID) - 1 No, Champion (CHU) -1 No, Coromandel (COL) - 1 No. and Oorgaum (OGM) -1 No. (Total - 27 Nos.). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later	Rs. 31,87,663/-
8	**Bengaluru - Yeliyur section:** Construction of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at km 55/200 at Channapatna (CPT) yard near LC No. 47 (Gangway: 32.0 x 3.0m, Stair case: 2 x 3.0x 20m) for pedastrian movement. (4T Crossings). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,88,44,786/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11-05-2026**

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 09/SBC/26 of 17-04-2026

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru - Yeliyur section:** Construction of RCC Over Head Tank (OHT) 2 lakh litre capacity with GLR 2 lakh liters capacity including electrical portion at Mandya (MYA) colony. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. Composite Tender.	Rs. 96,32,952/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination
Bengaluru
PUB/55/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme - 2026-27

CCRT is implementing Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme to provide facilities to outstanding talented children selected in the **age group of 10 to 14 years (as per the cot off eligibility dates), studying either in recognized schools or belonging to families practicing traditional performing arts** for getting specialized training in various cultural fields such as traditional forms of music, dance, drama, painting, sculpture, crafts and literary arts, laying special emphasis on rare art forms, which are in the process of becoming extinct The scholarship awarded under the scheme is for two years at a time which is renewable after every two years till the completion of the first university degree stage of education or up to the age of 20 years, whichever is earlier, subject to awardees maintaining satisfactory progress.

650 scholarships are awarded every year, as per details given below:

375 scholarships for General categories & Others	125 scholarships for Traditional Artist Families
100 scholarships for Tribal Culture /ST	20 scholarships for Differently Abled (Divyang)
30 scholarships for Creative Writing/Literary Arts	

The value of scholarship is Rs.3600/- (Rupees Three Thousand Six Hundred) per year and actual tuition fee paid for the specialized training is also reimbursed up to Rs.9000/- (Rupees Nine Thousand) per year. Children whose date of birth is in between **01.07.2012 and 30.06.2016** (both days inclusive) are eligible to apply for the award of scholarships for the year 2026-27. The application and other details may be downloaded from the CCRT website - www.ccrtindia.gov.in or collected free of cost personally/by post from any one of the following addresses:

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, 15 A, Sector – 7, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110075, Phone No : 011 - 28040013 Email : ddsch.ccrt@nic.in, website : www.ccrtindia.gov.in	CCRT Regional Centre, 1-118/ CCRT, Survey No. 64, Near Google Office, Madhapur, Hyderabad – 500084 Phone No : (040) 23117050 and 23111910, Email : rchyd.ccrt@nic.in
CCRT Regional Centre, Hawala Khurd, Badgaon, Udaipur, Rajasthan- 313001 Phone No : (0294) 2430764, 2430771, Email: rcud.ccrt@nic.in	CCRT Regional Centre, 58, Juripar, Panjabari Road, Guwahati, Assam-781037 Phone No. 0361-2330152, Email: rcgwt.ccrt@nic.in
CCRT Regional Centre Old Collectorate Building, Near District Court, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh – 470661 Phone No. 0781-2299187. Email: rcdamoh-ccrt@gov.in	

Duly filled application form along-with relevant documents should reach CCRT, New Delhi-110075 on or before Sunday, 31st May, 2026. CCRT will not be responsible for any postal delay and Applications received after the last date will not be considered.

CBC 09127/11/0001/2627

VEERASHAIVA SAHAKARI BANK LTD.,
No.1732/32, M C Road, M C Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, Karnataka
www.vsbank.in, Ph.No.: 080-23358017/23307070, GSTIN: 29AABAV7651G2Z4, Email : ho@vsbbengaluru.com

Ref: VSB/Recruitment/40/2026-27 Date: 24-04-2026

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd., Vijayanagar, Bengaluru hereby notified the direct Recruitment to the vacant posts of Junior Assistant and Attender, vide Order Number: RCS/UBC-1/UCS/A.R.R/305/2025-26, dated 06-01-2026, of Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Bengaluru. Applications are invited from the eligible Candidates through online and shall have to apply through the Bank website **www.vsbank.in** at Link **https://tascguru.com/veerashaiva-sahakari-bank/**

Applications can be submitted from **27-04-2026 10.30 am to 27-05-2026 5.30 pm.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Prescribed Qualification	Pay Scale	Total Posts
1.	Junior Assistant	(i) Any Degree from a Recognized University (ii) Computer knowledge is a must (iii) Knowledge of reading and writing in Kannada is a must and should have studied kannada as an optional language in SSLC	49050-1250-92500	10
2.	Attender	Must have passed SSLC and studied Kannada as one of the Language.	34100-800-67600	2

Application submission process is only through online and shall not be accepted in any other form. Procedure for filling up application, fee, mode of payment, Age limit and other general instructions are detailed in the Recruitment Notification which shall be refered in Bank's website **www.vsbank.in** at Link **https://tascguru.com/veerashaiva-sahakari-bank/**

Candidates are advised to contact Help Line No. **8310460727** if found any issues during submission of applications or for any such clarification.

Sd/-
Staff Recruitment Committee and Chief Executive Officer
Veerashaiva Sahakari Bank Ltd., Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY)
NOTIFICATION
Hubballi, the 9th April 2026

S.O. 1819(E).--In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely, "Construction of ROB in liew of LC No. 11 at Km: 17/439 between Chikkabanavar and Gollahalli Stations of Bengaluru Division" (Sasiveghatta Village and Tharabanahalli Village) in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land;

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act;

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Incharge Special Land Acquisition Officer Bangalore Urban and Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru for "Construction of ROB in liew of LC No. 11 at Km: 17/439 between Chikkabanavar and Gollahalli Stations of Bengaluru Division (Sasiveghatta Village and Tharabanahalli Village)" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority things becessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections;

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final;

The land plans and othe details of the land covered under this notification are available and cn be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Survey Nos.	Part	Area in A-G-A	Area in Hectare
1	Sasiveghatta	47	47/*/2	0-0-11	0.0070
			47/*/3	0-0-13	0.0082
			47/*/4	0-0-12	0.0076
			47/*/5	0-0-4	0.0025
			47/*/1	0-0-4	0.0025
2	Sasiveghatta	48	48/*/*	0-0-0	0.0000
3	Sasiveghatta	49	49/*/2	0-2-5	0.0234
			48/*/1	0-3-0	0.0304
4	Sasiveghatta	56	56/*/1	0-0-2	0.0013
			TOTAL-A	0-8-03	0.0829
5	Tharabanahalli	23	23/*/3	0-0-0	0.0000
6	Tharabanahalli	20	20/*/4	0-0-0	0.0000
			20/*/6	0-0-2	0.0013
			20/*/5	0-0-5	0.0031
7	Tharabanahalli	0	0/*/*	0-0-9	0.0057
8	Tharabanahalli	21	21/*/2	0-0-9	0.0057
			21/*/1	0-1-4	0.0126
9	Tharabanahalli	5	5/*/*	0-1-3	0.0120
10	Tharabanahalli	35	35/*/4	0-12-2	0.1227
			35/*/3	0-6-2	0.0620
			35/*/1	0-0-11	0.0070
11	Tharabanahalli	36	36/*/1	0-1-14	0.0190
			36/*/2	0-1-4	0.0126
			36/*/3	0-2-11	0.0272
12			0/*/*	0-24-10	0.2492
			Total-B	1-14-02	0.5478
			TOTAL EXTENT A+B	1A-22G-0a	0.6307

[F.No. SWR/W.352/RSP/Land/LC11/2026]

Sd/-
(NINGAPPA CHANDAPPA CHALUWADI)
Dy. Chief Engineer,
South Western Railway, Hubballi

PUB/58/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

10-minute newspaper reading must in schools

BENGALURU DHNS: The Department of School Education and Literacy has issued an order making reading Kannada newspapers for ten minutes mandatory every day at the schools.

Considering the recommendation by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the department has issued an order in this regard.

Kannada newspaper

According to the order, the students have to read Kannada newspapers mandatorily after morning prayers in all government, aided and unaided schools.

In its recommendation, the Commission has suggested that cultivating the reading habit will prevent mobile and social media addiction among school children.

Mobile phone usage

"Children are spending more time on the internet, online education and social media. Excessive use of mobile phones is causing low interest in studies, memory loss, hearing and visual problems and also lack of interest in physical activities.

"This is also impacting the children's physical and mental health," the Commission stated in the communication to the department.

General knowledge

"Reading newspapers, for at least 10 to 15 minutes every day in schools, will help prepare for competitive exams, increase general knowledge on current affairs and improve vocabulary, language and writing skills," the Commission said.

In the budget announcement, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had declared a ban on the use of social media for children below the age of 16.

The Department of School Education is currently preparing guidelines in consultation with stakeholders, which will be presented before the next legislature session.

Surveillance at Hesaraghatta confirms no H5N1 cases

Over 28K people surveyed during 10-day drive

BENGALURU, DHNS

The health department has completed a ten-day intensive surveillance and containment operation following the detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) at the State Poultry Rearing Training Centre in Hesaraghatta on April 14.

According to the officials from the health department, once the outbreak was confirmed, state and district rapid response teams along with Hesaraghatta and Sonnenahalli PHC teams were immediately deployed. An infected zone of 0–3 km and a surveillance zone of 3–10 km radius was established.

"The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services culled all the birds and safely disposed of eggs adhering to national and international biosecurity protocols," a statement by the health department said.

That apart 28,172 people across 22 surrounding villages was surveyed from day 1 to day 10.

"Multiple rounds of surveillance were conducted and sanitation activities were completed as per protocol. During the surveillance period, nasopharyngeal samples collected from all quarantined staff on Day 5, sent to NIV-Bengaluru, were found to be negative for H5N1. On day 10, nasopharyngeal samples have been collected and the results are awaited," senior officials from the department said.

The Bengaluru Urban district administration had declared the state-run poultry farm area in Hesaraghatta an "infected zone" after bird flu was confirmed among the poultry there.

Public advisory

- Avoid handling or consuming meat or eggs from sick or dead poultry
- Report sightings of sick or dead birds promptly to local veterinary or health authorities
- Ensure poultry meat and eggs are thoroughly cooked before consumption

However, officials confirmed that no human case of H5N1 infection has been detected in the infected or surveillance zones.

The health department has directed all healthcare facilities in Bengaluru to continue ILI/SARI case surveillance, and ensure adequate stocks of PPE, triple-layer medical masks, oseltamivir, viral transport medium, and throat swab kits.

According to the protocol,No poultry activity will be undertaken at the farm for a period of 90 days as a precautionary measure. During the 3 months of surveillance, the entire area of the farm will be repeatedly disinfected by fumigation (Indoors) or sprays (open place) every 15 days.

44 peacocks die of suspected bird flu in Tumakuru taluk

Deputy Conservator of Forests G R Shashidhar said a total of 44 peacocks have died in the taluk over the past week, raising concerns of possible bird flu, reports DHNS from Tumakuru.

He shared the information during the quarterly KDP review meeting held under the chairmanship of District In-charge Minister G Parameshwara in Tumakuru on Saturday.

DCF said samples from the birds have been sent to Bhopal for testing. Officials suspect causes such as rising heat, consumption of contaminated food or avian influenza. Exact details will be known after the test reports arrive, he added. Minister Parameshwara said no action can be taken until the reports are received. Hence, he directed necessary precautionary measures in areas with a high peacock population.

First PU science seats filled at many pvt colleges

400 new colleges, no need to worry, says PU Dept

BENGALURU, DHNS

Less than a week after results of the 2026 SSLC examinations are announced, parents and students who made a beeline for pre-university college admissions were shocked to learn that seats for the science stream had already been filled at most institutions.

In cities such as Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Mysuru, private unaided PU colleges start the admission process much prior to the commencement of the SSLC final examination, enrolling students based on their performance in the preparatory exams. This is more so in the case of institutions offering integrated coaching for NEET, CET, JEE exams, alongside teaching the PU syllabus.

Although students are worried about the situation, further compounded by the record pass percentage – 94.1% – this year in SSLC, the Department of Pre-University Education has assured them that there is no cause for concern.

"The apprehension that the record pass percentage will invariably lead to a shortfall in the number of PU seats is ill-informed. During the pandemic, the pass percentage was 100%, but there were no issues during admissions that year," remarked PU Department Director Bharath S.

More colleges

Pointing out that more than 400 new PU colleges had been established in the past three years, he added, "Science stream is available at 100 more government PU colleges this year. There will be no shortage of seats, since we are allowing colleges to apply for seat enhancement online."

Referring to to the impressive performance of government college students in the second PU exams this year, Bharath called on parents to enrol their children in state-run institutions.

Meanwhile, colleges are seeking the government's nod for increasing intake of students. "We will allow colleges to increase their intake if they have the required infrastructure, and fulfil other criteria," Bharath said.

Given the record pass percentage this year, stakeholders are concerned about private-unaided PU colleges, which account for 60% of all the PU institutions in the state, exploiting the situation. They emphasised the need to improve enrolment at government PU colleges, where admission has been on a downward spiral.

Educationist and lecturer Z N Jagirdar called for restricting intake at private-unaided PU colleges so as to ensure fair distribution of admissions at government, private-aided and unaided colleges. He also called for the enforcement of a roster-based admission system to ensure seats for SC/ST, OBC, EWS and girls were mandatorily reserved across colleges.

Karnataka State Pre-University Lecturers' Association president Ningegowda A H said, "Private-unaided colleges make up 3,623 of the 6,177 PU colleges in the state. The government is allowing new colleges to be established without following proper norms. Of the 12,198 sanctioned teaching posts across 1,319 government PU colleges, 5,500 are vacant. Nearly 555 colleges have no principals."

Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy V Rashmi Mahesh opined that government PU colleges were 'underutilising' their resources. "We are integrating science courses at government PU colleges, apart from imparting skill-based education. We are also offering training for competitive examinations, without adding to the parents' financial burden," she said.

Urban infra: Karnataka seeks Rs 5,000 crore from Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday urged the Centre to sanction Rs 5,000 crore to improve urban infrastructure in Karnataka.

He was speaking after attending a symposium on the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) and Urban Invest Window (UIWIN), chaired by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.

Shivakumar stated that Karnataka has 1,082 ready urban infrastructure projects worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore and requested the Centre to increase the allocation beyond Rs 5,500 crore to support ongoing and tendered projects. He reaffirmed the state's commitment to building a smarter, future-ready Bengaluru with world-class infrastructure.

The Union Cabinet recently approved the Urban Challenge Fund with Rs one lakh crore in central assistance to promote reform-driven urban transformation, including city redevelopment, mobility, water and sanitation, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

Under the UCF, the Centre will fund up to 25% of project costs, with at least 50% to be raised from the market and 25% from states. Projects will be selected through a competitive challenge-mode process based on readiness, bankability, and outcomes, with funding linked to urban governance reforms.

MARCH FOR PEACE

Monks from the Maha Bodhi Society take out a peace march in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Medical colleges told not to grant leave to students during UGNEET exam

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has directed medical colleges not to grant leave to students on May 2 and 3 during the Undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UGNEET-2026), unless in exceptional circumstances.

The directive is aimed at preventing the exams from being marred by incidents of malpractice, particularly cases of impersonation by MBBS students.

Following a letter from the Union Minister of Education (Department of Higher Education), NMC has issued the order instructing medical college principals to take steps to ensure the sanctity of the UGNEET-2026 examination.

The Ministry of Education pointed out that the National Testing Agency was conducting UGNEET-2026 with pens and paper this year.

Citing incidents that involved medical college students in the past, the letter stated, "By way of general deterrence, it is hereby requested that suitable instructions be issued to all medical colleges to remain vigilant and ensure that students are sensitised against involvement in activities prejudicial to the conduct of the examination."

It is also the Ministry that has insisted on a 'no-leave' policy on May 2 and 3, unless under exceptional circumstances. "This measure is intended to serve as a preventive step to discourage potential misuse and to support fair conduct of the examination," the letter said.

An official from the Department of Medical Education confirmed that there had been instances of MBBS students impersonating the UGNEET candidates and taking the exam in their stead.

"There have also been instances of those pursuing medical degrees attempting NEET again to secure a better rank and block seats. Taking these into account, coupled with the directions from the NMC, we have directed medical colleges to take action accordingly," the official said.

DH-PV Citizen Connect kicks off, suggestions pour in

BENGALURU, DHNS

Citizens and the representatives of the residents' welfare associations (RWAs) from across Bengaluru gathered on Saturday for the first *DH*-PV Citizen Connect meeting, raising a wide range of concerns from crumbling infrastructure and illegal buildings to vanishing trees and delayed civic body polls.

"Bengaluru used to be a nice city to live in about 20-30 years ago," K N Tilak Kumar, Joint Managing Director of The Printers (Mysore) Ltd, which publishes *Deccan Herald* and *Prajavani*, said in his welcome address. "Now, it has grown big and unlivable. Planning has taken a backstage. There is garbage everywhere," he said, adding the new initative hopes to build a bridge between citizens and authorities.

During the interactive session, BV Lalithamba from HSR Layout called for the revival of ward committee meetings, arguing that decentralisation could address many of the problems residents face daily. "It has become hard to meet officials. And when we do meet them, they point to a lack of men, machinery and money," she said.

Representatives of citizen groups and residents' welfare associations at the first DH-PV Citizen Connect meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO

Srinivas Rao of Thanisandra shared a ground-level account of what administrative expansion has not helped. His area was among the 110 villages added to the erstwhile BBMP.

"Thanisandra continues to resemble a 110th village," he said, adding that the area does not have basic infrastructure including footpaths. "Cauvery water has finally come but there is no underground drainage system."

Sathish Jadhav of BTM Layout drew attention to the unchecked spread of paying guest accommodations in buildings approved solely for residential use.

"PGs must obtain approvals under hostels but they are coming up in buildings that are supposed to be houses. It is becoming a nuisance with each building housing more number of residents that the local infrastructure is unable to handle," he said.

V Ramprasad, co-founder of Friends of Lakes, warned that while lakes are being rejuvenated, the work is not being approached as flood mitigation.

Drop in for citizen connect initiative

Citizen groups and RWAs willing to be part of the DH-PV Citizen Connect initiative can send a message to 8867679293 or write dhpvcitizenconnect@printersmysore.co.in.

Plea for trees

Retired teacher Alexander James made a passionate plea for Bengaluru's trees. "Different agencies are on a rampage against trees. We need to protect them and bring back the glory of Bengaluru," he said.

While some residents called for the need to publish a dashboard to track ongoing projects, others drew attention to the long-delayed civic body polls.

Krishna Panyam of Malleswaram flagged the incomplete white-topping work on 8th Main Road. Amith Nigli of Banaswadi urged *DH*-PV to revive localised Janaspandana events.

Poornima Shetty of Konena Agrahara called for solidarity among residents, noting that authorities tend to dismiss isolated complaints.

Kathyayini Chamaraj of CIVIC Bangalore urged participants not to lose sight of the city's most vulnerable residents. Schools, housing for the urban poor, healthcare and anganwadis deserve the same attention as roads, lakes and solid waste management, she argued.

Christopher Cruz, a resident of North Bengaluru, summed up by saying there is no shortage of rules, policies and legislation for making Bengaluru a better city. "What is lacking is enforcement," he said, adding no official is interested in enforcing the rules. Giving one example, he said when plots larger than 2,500 sq ft are approved, planting a sapling is mandatory but does anyone follow through, he questioned.

KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

O/o Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Division, PL-88 Abhirudhi Bhavan, Chimalgi Layout, High court Road, Kalaburagi-02, 08472-292266, E-mail : ksdb.guldiv@gmail.com

No:KSDB/EE/KLB.DVN/KPPP-Tender/2026-27/Call-2/81 Date:23.04.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TEM TENDER

Karnataka Slum Development Board, Kalaburagi Division has invited the tender for Providing External Electrification work to 636 (G Plus1) (1263) Houses under PMAY-HFA works at Chincholi Town Kalaburagi District. under K.W. 4, Two Cover Model, Eligible Class-I PWD registered Contractor can participate through KPP Portal, the details of works as mentioned below.

Calendar of events:- 1. Last Date & Time for tender Submission : **30.04.2026 Evening 16.00 Hrs,** 2. Last date & time for opening Technical Bid : **02.05.2026 Morning 11.00 Hrs,** 3. Last Date & Time for opening Financial Bid : Will be intimated to the eligible bidders.

1) Indent No.: **KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT388,** 2) Name of Work: Providing External Electrification work to 636 (G Plus1) (1263) Houses under PMAY-HFA works at Chincholi Town Kalaburagi District., 3) Amount put to Tender(in Rs.): **1,09,35,535.50,** 4) EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000.00, 5) Eligible Category of Contractors: Class-I

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board, Kalaburagi Division, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/76/KSMC&A/2026-27

SC recalls order reserving judgment on validity of 1997 K'tka law on temples control

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has recalled its February 11, 2026 order which reserved its judgment in the 2008 civil appeals concerning the Sahasra Lingeshwara Temple in Uppinangady, Karnataka, particularly involving the issue of extent of state control over temple management.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe passed the order in this regard on April 24, 2026 after being informed by the counsel for the parties that the Supreme Court's nine-judge Constitution bench judgment in Sabarimala reference would have direct impact upon merits of the instant appeals.

The counsel also said the issues raised in the present matter were identical to the ones agitated before the nine-judge bench.

"We recall our order dated 11.02.2026 to the extent it records "the judgment is reserved"," the bench said.

These appeals may be posted for hearing after the judgment of the nine-judge Constitution bench is delivered, the court ordered.

The bench recorded, "It is the common say of all the counsels that the issues before the nine judges Constitution bench [ie R.P.(C) No. 3358/2018 in W.P.(C) No. 373/2006 titled as Kantaru Rajeevaru vs. Indian Young Lawyers Association & Ors.] are identical to the issues arising in the present batch of appeals. It is admitted that the principle laid down in the nine judges Constitution bench will have a direct bearing in this batch of appeals."

The appeal filed by the Karnataka government challenged a 2006 Karnataka High Court judgment which invalidated the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Act, 1997 in its entirety. The questions before the court were about the limits of government intervention in the management of Hindu temples and endowments.

The 1997 Act sought to establish a uniform system for regulating the secular administration of Hindu religious institutions and charitable endowments statewide. It, however, exempted certain mutts and temples attached to them.

On September 9, 2005, a single judge of the High Court upheld the validity of the 1997 law. However, a division bench in its 2006 judgment struck down the law and notifications issued therein and held exclusion of certain mutts and temples defied justification. The commission of Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs from the definition of Hindus was found as hostile discrimination.

INTERVIEW

'Ongoing exercise not aimed at excluding genuine voters'

Voter mapping boosts electoral rolls' accuracy: Anbu Kumar

With Karnataka undergoing a statewide Voter Mapping Exercise ahead of a proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR), concerns over possible voter exclusion have begun to surface, especially in light of large-scale deletions reported in states like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Assam.

V Anbu Kumar, Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, in an exclusive interview to **Prathima Nandakumar** of *Deccan Herald*, says that the ongoing mapping is a preparatory, verification exercise aimed at improving the accuracy of electoral rolls — not excluding genuine voters. He explains the process, the safeguards, and how the Election Commission plans to address fears of wrongful deletions.

What is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), and how is it different from the Special Summary Revision (SSR)?
Every year, we conduct a Special Summary Revision (SSR), usually based on a qualifying date such as January 1 of a given year. During the SSR, we do not review the entire voter list. Requests for addition, deletion or modification of voter details are considered during this revision.

In contrast, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is conducted periodically, as decided by the Election Commission of India. During the SIR, we verify each and every voter in the electoral roll. This is the ninth time SIR is being conducted in India. So, while SSR is annual and limited in scope, the SIR is comprehensive and involves full verification of the voter list.

How is the Election Commission preparing for SIR?
Preparation involves mapping electoral rolls from the last SIR with the current roll. In Karnataka, the last SIR was conducted in 2002, when there were about 3.5 crore voters. Today, in 2025, we have 5.56 crore voters.

We compare the 2002 roll with the current roll to identify which voters are continuing and how new voters are linked. For example, if a person was present in 2002 and continues in 2025, they are marked as continuing. If someone was not present earlier, we map them to a related voter, such as a parent or grandparent.

This mapping helps identify where voters were in 2002 and simplifies the verification process, which is the responsibility of Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

How will Booth Level Officers (BLOs) approach voters?
We have around 59,050 BLOs in Karnataka, who have been trained and provided with both the 2002 and current electoral rolls, along with a dedicated mobile application.

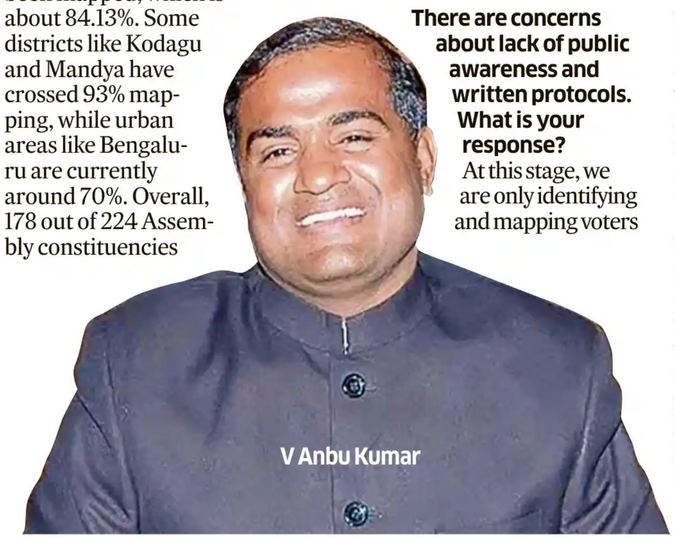
BLOs will use the app to map voters digitally. If they already know the voter, they may complete the mapping themselves. If not, they may visit the voter and ask basic questions, such as where the person was registered in 2002. This is an administrative exercise, and no forms are being distributed at this stage.

How can voters check if their name has been mapped?
Currently, voters are not required to verify mapping themselves. It is the responsibility of the BLO. However, if voters wish to check, they can download the ECI Net app. By entering their EPIC number, voters can find their polling station and the contact details of their BLO.

What is the current status of the mapping exercise?
Out of the 5.56 crore voters, 4.67 crore voters have already been mapped, which is about 84.13%. Some districts like Kodagu and Mandya have crossed 93% mapping, while urban areas like Bengaluru are currently around 70%. Overall, 178 out of 224 Assembly constituencies have achieved more than 80% mapping, and 92 constituencies have crossed 90%.

Why mapping is slower in Bengaluru?
Bengaluru has a very large and dynamic population, with over 1.03 crore voters. This makes the process more complex.

What should voters do if they have not yet been contacted?
There is no need to worry. BLOs will reach out to all voters. Mapping is an ongoing process and will continue even after SIR is notified, up to two days before the draft roll is published.


V Anbu Kumar

There are concerns about lack of public awareness and written protocols. What is your response?
At this stage, we are only identifying and mapping voters and SIR has not been officially notified. Once SIR begins, enumeration forms will be issued to every voter. The entire process will be clearly explained through official notifications, media briefings, and outreach efforts.

Scan the QR code to watch the interview

Will electoral rolls be frozen during SIR?
Yes. Unlike SSR, during SIR, the electoral roll will be frozen for a specified period (typically around 60 days, as notified). During this time, no additions or deletions can be made. However, continuous updation is currently ongoing until the notification is issued.

What happens if a person's name appears in multiple voter lists?
SIR is to identify duplicate, shifted, absentee, and deceased voters. If a person is registered in multiple places, they will receive forms in each location and must retain only one valid entry.

What's the process once SIR is notified?
Once notified, all voters in the electoral roll will receive two copies of the enumeration form. They must sign and return one copy to the BLO and retain the other as proof. Further details of the process will be communicated clearly after the official notification.

Residents stage a protest demanding supply of drinking water in Ilkal town of Bagalkot district on Saturday.

Govt allocates Rs 45 cr to tackle drinking water woes in rural areas

Dist authorities told to prioritise tanker-based water supply

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government allocated on Saturday Rs 45 crore to districts to manage emergency water scarcity in rural areas during the peak summer.

The funds will be utilised to ensure uninterrupted access to safe drinking water through immediate and targeted interventions, including tanker supply and the hiring of private borewells in water-stressed regions, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge said.

The allocation has been made under the State Plan for 2026–27 through the department of rural drinking water and sanitation. Of the total outlay, Rs 34.15 crore has been earmarked for capital expenditure, Rs 7.71 crore under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCP) Rs 3.12 crore under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP).

"Ensuring access to safe drinking water, especially during the summer months, is a top priority for the government. This allocation is aimed at enabling swift, localised responses in water-scarce regions. District administrations must act promptly and responsibly to ensure that no village faces distress due to lack of drinking water," Priyank said.

The minister directed district administrations to prioritise tanker-based water supply and the use of rented borewells in areas facing acute shortages.

With temperatures rising, Priyank directed officials to take "urgent and coordinated measures" to mitigate the impact of extreme heat on citizens.

Priyank told zilla panchayat chief executive officers (CEO) and officials across local bodies to ensure uninterrupted access to safe drinking water in all villages. "Rising temperature is a serious public health concern and our response must be proactive, localised and immediate. From ensuring access to safe drinking water to creating cooler environments for children and vulnerable groups, every level of administration must act with urgency and accountability," Priyank said.

Internal quota move is final nail in ruling Cong's coffin, says BJP

▸ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Opposition BJP on Saturday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the government's decision on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC), which the saffron party described as "final nail in the coffin." Addressing a news conference, Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol, a former deputy chief minister, asked the government to clarify if it had rejected the Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission's report as unscientific.

The government's decision to divide the 15% SC reservation into 5.25% for the Dalit (Left), 5.25% for Dalit (Right) and 4.5% for the remaining "betrays" the marginalised communities, Karjol said.

Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said the decision, made after a three-year delay, was arbitrary and would not stand legal scrutiny. Narayanaswamy said SCs were "left in the lurch."

HC quashes proceedings against actor Ranveer Singh

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Saturday quashed proceedings against Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh after accepting a revised undertaking to visit the Chavundi deity to make amends for mimicking the deity depicted by Kannada actor Rishab Shetty in the Kannada film 'Kantara Chapter 1'.

Justice M Nagaprasanna disposed of the petition filed by the actor. A formal order is yet to be released.

During the hearing, senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, appearing for Ranveer Singh, submitted an affidavit that is unconditional and that he would visit the temple.

The advocate said that he has not specified any date for the visit. The complainant submitted that a definite time frame should be mentioned.

While disposing of the petition, Justice Nagaprasanna said that he would record that the actor would have to visit the temple in four weeks.

Meanwhile, the advocate for the complainant in the case submitted that the order to be passed should contain a 'harsh caution' so that other celebrities should not take this lightly.

"Admonition, definitely we will do. I will admonish," Justice Nagaprasanna orally responded.

Ranveer Singh had filed the petition with a prayer to quash a criminal case registered against him for his mimicry as well as comments about the Chavundi Daiva, a revered deity in Coastal Karnataka, at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held at Goa in 2025.

The complaint was filed by Prashant Methal, a resident of HBR layout in Bengaluru city. Based on the complaint, the High Grounds police had registered the case for offences punishable under BNS sections 196, 299 and 302.

BJP terms govt 'minimum 15% sarkara', demands probe into contractors' allegations

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Arvind Bellad has demanded an independent probe into the allegations of seeking 15% kickback from garbage contractors to ascertain the truth.

"Karnataka deserves answers, accountability and an independent probe. Governance cannot function under the shadow of alleged corruption where every contract appears to come with an unofficial price tag," he said in a post on social platform X.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya also launched a sharp attack on the state government in this regard.

In a post on the social media platform, Surya said that the government is operating like a "minimum 15% sarkara," noting that the corruption of the Congress-led state government has become so brazen that contractors have to go to the High Court.

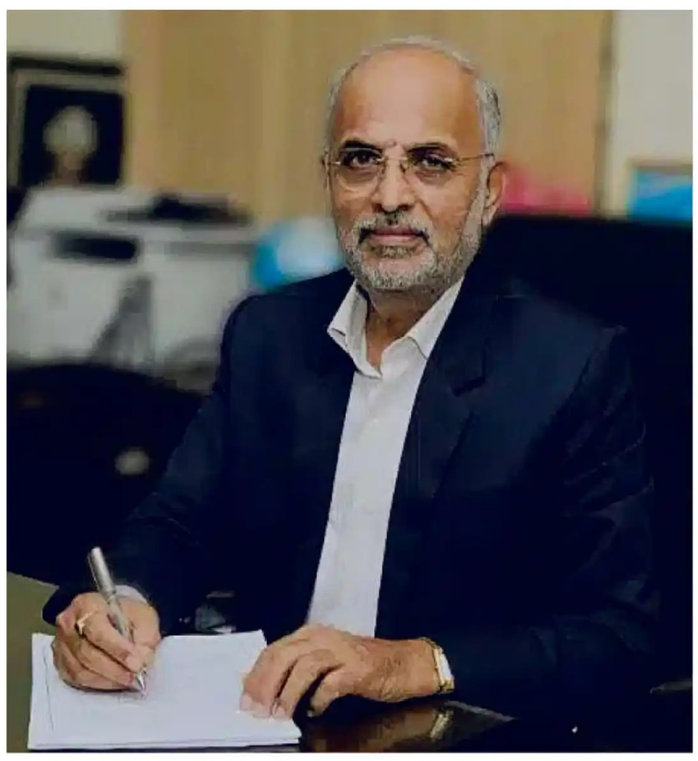
The BJP leader also alleged that the development works across Karnataka have been stalled due to pending payments exceeding Rs 30,000 crore, adding that contractors "blood being sucked dry for want of bribes."

Citing civic conditions in Bengaluru, Surya criticised the government over poor infrastructure, claiming that the city's roads are plagued by garbage and potholes, while the administration remains "least bothered."

'Our focus is on experiential learning by integrating projects, lab-driven modules and continuous assessments...'

As **Cambridge Institute of Technology** (CIT) enters its 20th year, the institution celebrates its consistent growth in both student intake as well as its comprehensive academic ecosystem covering multiple disciplines. From core engineering programmes offered at the time of its inception in 2007, CIT has come a long way and now offers multi-disciplinary programmes that include specialised and emerging technology domains.

Dr Ravishankar B V, Principal, CIT, speaks on the journey of the institution, its state-of-the-art infrastructure, application-oriented learning, multiple programmes offered, industry connect and much more in this chat



CIT has entered its 20th year. Looking back, how do you perceive its evolution to being one of the top-rated engineering institutions in Bengaluru for the programmes offered and its academic excellence?
CIT was founded in 2007 with the explicit objective of achieving academic excellence in existing and emerging fields of technology. The focus has been on application-oriented learning with industry alignment. The academic programmes have a strong emphasis on research and innovation. Right from its inception, CIT has stressed on sustainable practices and social responsibilities, both as an organisational approach as well as a quality to be cultivated among students. What started as a 420-student strength, now stands at over 4,000 across various departments.

In the years 2015-22, we connected with leading industries to establish labs that help students working on projects to align with industry requirements. This bridged the gap between academia and industry successfully, offering students access to cutting edge skills and technologies. The journey has progressed from academic excellence to research and innovative leadership that meet the standards of a globally-recognised impact-driven institution.

The institute has many national and international accreditations and certificates. How have these recognitions strengthened your research ecosystem?
These recognitions have enhanced the reputation and quality standards of the institute and encouraged us to work harder for more government-funded projects and research schemes. They have also helped in making the institute eligible for customs duty exemptions while importing scientific equipment.

Together, they have facilitated in building our resources for research and innovation, as well as establishing associations with renowned scholars and leading organisations. This networking has propelled the research and innovation wing of the institute.

Have the funded research projects made a difference to the research scenario at the institute?
After securing several research projects funded by the government and private organisations, opportunities have opened up for both students and faculty to work on real-world issues besides building their research capabilities, enhancing credibility, enabling publication of research articles in journals of repute, filing for patents, executing technology transfers, incubating start-ups and much more.

Faculty skills and teaching methods are enhanced as theoretical concepts can be connected to real-life issues.

How do ongoing projects aid in bridging the gap between academic research and industry requirements?
Faculty can bring updated industry trends and technologies into the classroom through their industrial sabbaticals and consulting roles, thus improving the quality of instruction and research. The industry-led projects require student participation where they receive hands-on training and experience with real-world datasets, modern tools and infrastructure, providing them practical skills and better employability on graduating.

The industry also stands to gain with the cost-effective research talent they have access to. These collaborations thus work to promote faster commercialisation of research outcomes, connecting the labs and markets directly.

CIT has achieved a significant number of patents and publications. What has been the driving force behind this culture of innovation?
CIT has a culture of encouraging partnerships, collaborations to develop disruptive technologies, disseminating novel ideas and building on existing knowledge rather than reinventing. CIT has also focused on converting IPs into tangible assets that can attract investors, besides facilitating start-ups and enabling individual inventors to protect their breakthroughs, where they compete with established organisations.

CIT has formulated a well-defined IP strategy to ensure research not only generates knowledge but also tangible commercial outcomes. We permit both minor and major research projects and internships as part of the curriculum where students apply classroom principles to real-world scenarios, equipped with skills to solve complex problems.

Are your current programmes in AI and ML, IoT, cyber security and blockchain aligned with evolving industry needs?
These programmes have been structured to meet real-time industry requirements, especially in the high-demand sectors. Hands-on training, industry-relevant tools and live projects ensure students have both conceptual clarity and practical competence.

Additionally, AI has been integrated with all programmes at CIT, including civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, ensuring students from every discipline are equipped with future-ready skills.

Have you altered your teaching methods to go beyond traditional classroom learning?
Our focus is more on experiential learning by integrating projects, lab-driven modules and continuous assessments through practical assignments, so students learn to apply their knowledge and concepts to develop problem-solving capabilities.

This approach has brought outstanding success in our industry placements of students. We have over 200 companies offering placements to our students. Over 790 students secure multiple offers on an average. The highest package offered so far has been Rs 53.50 lakhs per annum. The average package is Rs 6.20 lakhs per annum.

CIT won the Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0. How do you see this remarkable achievement shaping the future of your institution?
Winning the Cyber Security Grand Challenge 2.0, organised by MeitY, with a cash prize of Rs 1 crore, is a significant achievement. This reflects our academic rigour and emphasis on research, innovation, practical learning and industry collaboration to be in tune with real-life scenarios, beyond the pedagogy. This achievement has propelled us to go further and climb greater heights in our approach to education and training students, as well as honing faculty skills and participation.

What are your priorities for this year?
The key priorities for 2026 includes fostering a research-driven, innovative ecosystem that integrates inter-disciplinary technologies with sustainable real-world applications. AI-driven solutions, industry-academia partnerships, start-up incubation and global collaborations are some of the key segments that CIT will be focusing on to enhance what we already have in place currently.

There will thus be a clear shift towards impact-oriented education where research, innovation and global collaboration converge to create a future-ready ecosystem, where CIT will emerge as a national hub of excellence.

Curated by DH Brandspot

BDL delivers India's 1st indigenous heavyweight torpedo

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Defence public sector undertaking Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has achieved a significant milestone in indigenous defence manufacturing, delivering a production-grade Wire Guided Heavy Weight Torpedo (WGHWT) to the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) at its Visakhapatnam unit.

Acting as the Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP), the Hyderabad-based BDL collaborated with NSTL to realise India's first indigenously produced, production-grade WGHWT. Delivered in both practice and combat configurations, the torpedo marks a major step forward in India's pursuit of self-reliance in advanced naval weapon systems under the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

The system incorporates state-of-the-art homing and propulsion technologies, along with sophisticated search, attack, and re-attack capabilities that significantly enhance the operational readiness and striking power of the Indian Navy.

The event was attended by Dr R V Hara Prasad, Director General (NS&M); Commodore A Madhavarao (Retired), Chairman and Managing Director, BDL; Dr Abraham Varughese, Director, NSTL; and teams from BDL, NSTL, and the Indian Navy.

"This achievement underscores the success of collaborative efforts between DRDO (NSTL) and BDL in building a robust indigenous defence ecosystem involving several industrial partners, including MSMEs. The productionisation of such a complex underwater weapon system highlights India's growing expertise in cutting-edge naval technologies," said Madhavarao.

The torpedo is based on Varunastra, an indigenously developed heavyweight underwater weapon designed by the Visakhapatnam-based NSTL. Weighing approximately 1.25 tonnes and capable of carrying a 250 kg warhead, Varunastra successfully completed user evaluation trials and met the Indian Navy's Qualifying Requirements before being inducted into service around 2015.

The weapon travels at speeds of up to 38 knots and employs a unique circular trajectory, using onboard intelligence to autonomously trace and engage targets. It is equipped with an advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance system and driven by a high-speed electric propulsion unit, making it one of the most capable indigenously developed naval weapons in India's arsenal.

Fake nationalism in Nagpur, pure servility in US: Rahul on RSS

Targets Sangh over Ram Madhav's remarks on Indo-US ties

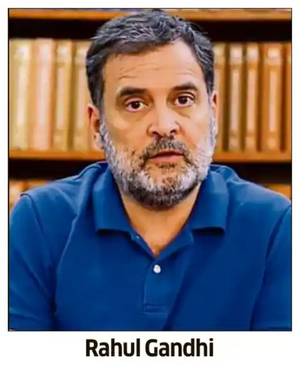
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday described the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as "Rashtriya Surrender Sangh", claiming that its leader Ram Madhav had revealed the outfit's true nature of "farzi (fake) nationalism" in India and "pure servility" in the United States.

Rahul's comment followed a video of Madhav at an event in the US in which he said India had agreed to stop buying oil from Iran and Russia and had also accepted higher tariffs imposed by the US. He later apologised, saying he was "factually incorrect", clarifying that India had not agreed to stop importing oil from Russia and had "vigorously protested" the 50% tariff imposition by the US. In a post on X, Rahul said: "Rashtriya Surrender Sangh. Farzi nationalism in Nagpur. Pure servility in the USA. Ram Madhav has only revealed Sangh's true nature."

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said it was a "clear admission" by a senior RSS leader that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "dancing to Washington's tunes".

"There was once a time when the US' 7th Fleet was in the Bay of Bengal, and India didn't budge. And then there is today, where a compromised PM has handed over India's sovereignty to the US. India has lost its independent voice on the world stage. After this surrender, it's clear that Narendra Modi has lost his authority to continue as Prime Minister," he said on X. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that despite its "ostentatious" nationalism, the RSS remains "desperate for acceptance abroad".


Rahul Gandhi

"Not content with appointing lobbyists (even lobbyists appointed by Pakistan), its top ideologues were recently in America on a PR campaign that failed completely and got tangled up in its own overly clever arguments. These ideologues were also there when a delegation from the Indian government was in Washington DC discussing a bilateral trade agreement, which in reality is a one-sided deal in America's favour. In fact, this was acknowledged in a conversation with the RSS," he said.

"The RSS has tried to show that it is not like the Ku Klux Klan, but sufficient evidence exists to indicate that it drew inspiration from European fascist movements. The truth is that it is an organisation fundamentally opposed to the core idea of unity through India's diversity," he added.

PM no more than Trump's puppet, says Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, PTI: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being no more than the US President Donald Trump's "puppet", claiming senior BJP leader Ram Madhav's recent remarks in the US had "exposed" the Modi government's "dangerous" priorities.

Taking to social media platform 'X', Siddaramaiah claimed that Madhav's remarks in the USA have "exposed the Modi government's dangerous priorities".

"He (Ram Madhav) openly admitted that, despite facing opposition criticism, India stopped importing oil from Iran and Russia, absorbed heavy tariffs, and made concessions that hurt India's economy and sovereignty - all to appease foreign powers," the chief minister said.

KNNL dragged to NGT for 'disturbing' Sharavathi riverbed

Activists point to false, misleading information by govt agency

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) has been accused of providing misleading information to questions over "illegal and blatantly unauthorised" works it took up on the riverbed of Sharavathi to benefit a mutt in Shivamogga district.

In November 2024, *DH* reported on the cash-strapped KNNL spending Rs 300 crore on mutts and halls, works that violated its mandate. Among those works were a decorative pushkarani and a retaining wall. In response, the agency said the land belongs to Ramachandrapura mutt.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) had issued notice to the agency and others following a detailed petition by the activists Manjunath Hirechowti and Deepak C N of Lanchamukta Karnataka. KNNL's response that the Shivamogga MP B Y Raghavendra had made a request for the works based on an approval by the Finance Department came under attack.

In a rejoinder, the activists said Raghavendra's letter was dated August 2020 while the government approval came in January 2021. They termed the KNNL's submission false and misleading. "It is factually untenable and internally inconsistent for a request made in August 2020 to be based on an approval that did not exist," they said adding it exposes KNNL's attempt to "mislead" the tribunal with "false sequence of events".

River ecology affected

The rejoinder pointed to the satellite maps submitted by the KNNL to show the disturbance caused to the riverbed. They noted that permanently lined masonry structure constructed using stone and granite significantly reduced natural percolation and groundwater recharge.

"The construction of the riverfront and Pushkarani, while intended to protect the temple and support ritual purposes, has altered the natural flow regime of tributaries and modified the floodplain," they said.

Further, the activists pointed out that KNNL did not obtain either consent for establishment or environment clearances as stipulated by the Environment Impact Assessment Rules.

They questioned the mutation entry of the land where the retaining wall was built. "The fact that mutation was effected subsequent to the initiation of proceedings (in the NGT) gives rise to reasonable inference that the same may have been undertaken to retrospectively legitimise the impugned construction," they said.

To a question, Hirechowti said the respondents have not been complying with the tribunal's notices and directions issued since April 4, 2025. "I have submitted an interlocutory application, praying for early hearing in the case. Except KNNL's response filled with flaws, no other government bodies have responded to the tribunal's notice," he said.

Sudhakar yet to regain consciousness: CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday visited the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Hospital in Electronics City to check on his Cabinet colleague D Sudhakar who is on a ventilator following severe lung infection.

D Sudhakar

Sudhakar, the Hiriyur MLA who serves as minister for planning, programme monitoring & statistics, is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit. Siddaramaiah met Sudhakar's family members.

"Sudhakar hasn't regained consciousness. Doctors will decide (on Sunday)," Siddaramaiah said. "For a lung transplant, he must regain consciousness."

Siddaramaiah said Sudhakar was stable. "He's on ventilation. All his organs are stable, except his brain that hasn't regained consciousness. A CT scan will be done on Sunday and doctors will decide based on that," he said.

VOCIFEROUS

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, with members of the Nari Shakti Forum, protests against Congress and its allies over the Women's Reservation Bill, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Rs 1,000-cr RERA relief yet to reach homebuyers

RERA, From PJ II

This makes it difficult for the revenue authorities to seize anything of value.

According to sources, RERA has sought a dedicated recovery cell under the revenue department to address these pending recoveries.

The recovery cell is expected to work dedicatedly in recovering dues for the RERA orders passed.

"We have held discussions with the Chief Secretary as well and recieved a positive response. We will take measures to set up a cell and work towards recovering these dues," a senior official from the Housing Department said.

Raichur district reels under intense heatwave

RAICHUR, DHNS: Most parts of the district are reeling under an intense heatwave, with temperature going past 40 degrees Celsius. Raichur city and Arakera recorded the highest maximum temperature at 43 degrees Celsius on Friday.

Other towns in the district also continued to sizzle with soaring temperatures. Manvi registered a maximum temperature of 42.5 degree Celsius while Sirwar and Devadurga witnessed 42.4 degrees Celsius. Lingasugur, Maski and Sindhanur also saw maximum temperatures go past 41 degrees Celsius.

There is no respite from scorching heat for the district as the intense heatwave will continue till May 1, according to the weather department.

Intense heat and frequent power cuts have made life miserable for the people in the district. There was no power supply in Raichur city for over one-and-a-half hours on Saturday evening.

In-laws can't be prosecuted for just knowing about 2nd marriage: Supreme Court

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said that mere knowledge of the second marriage without any overt act — suggesting active participation or facilitation, or encouragement — was not enough to sustain the charge of bigamy under Section 494 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Augustine George Masih set aside the Kerala High Court's judgment of November 25, 2024, which declined to quash an FIR lodged against the in-laws of a woman at the Museum Police Station in Thiruvananthapuram in 2016 under IPC Sections 494 and 498A, read with Section 34.

"While it has been alleged that the accused-appellants were aware of the second marriage, mere knowledge that an

act is being or has been committed by another person does not, by itself, establish the requisite common intention," said the bench.

"Even proceeding on the basis that the accused-appellants were aware of the second marriage, there is no allegation, let alone any material, to suggest that they actively participated in, facilitated, or encouraged the solemnisation of that marriage," it added.

The bench found that the complaint was primarily against the accused husband regarding physical assault, demand of dowry, and mental torture.

The allegations against the accused-appellants, however, were less of that of active involvement and mostly that of their being present or encouraging the harassment meted out by the accused husband, the court noted.

"The FIR does not attribute to them any specific act of demand, threat, or physical assault on any identifiable occasion," the bench noted.

The court also noted that the HC relied upon the statement of a witness to infer knowledge with regard to the second marriage on the part of the accused-appellants.

However, such inferential knowledge, without more, was insufficient to satisfy the threshold established in S Nitheen and Others Vs State of Kerala and Another (2024), which requires evidence of an overt act or omission, the court pointed out.

Nuclear shift of Indian families has a big environmental impact

Families, From PJ II

As families shrink, the demand for housing, electricity and water per head rises, putting unprecedented pressure on finite resources.

The report points to a heavy concentration of urban growth in Western and Northern India. The West, with only 16.76% of the total land area, hosts over 31% of the population in its most populous cities. The North faces similar ratio stresses, leading to rapid resource depletion and haphazard urban sprawl. With rising disposable incomes, the percentage of households without assets like cell phones or vehicles dropped from 34.5% in 2001 to just 17.8% in 2011.

Consumption vs demographics

The report argues that the growing middle class in India and China is now consuming energy at levels comparable to the United States. Increased disposable income, particularly in areas with declining fertility, has empowered individuals to acquire assets like cars and refrigerators.

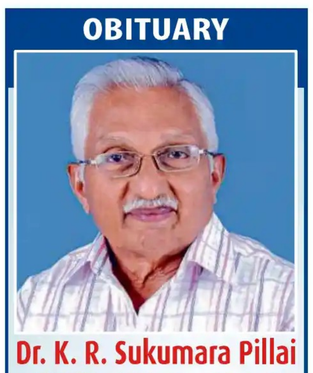
"Our current patterns of consumption are going to have a greater impact on the environment than all the other demographic factors," Lakshmana told *DH*.

Urbanisation continues to be large-city oriented, with 70% of India's urban population concentrated in Class-I cities. This influx has led to immense pressure on fertile land and the creation of pollution hubs. These areas hold a disproportionate share of the population relative to their land area and face the highest risks of environmental decay.

Lakshmana emphasises without integrating demographic change into environmental planning, the challenge of environmental decay may become India's most difficult hurdle in the coming decades.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

OBITUARY



Dr. K. R. Sukumara Pillai
(Rtd. Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka)
DOB : 25-10-1939
DOD : 20-04-2026
"You will live forever in our hearts"
May your departed soul Rest in eternal peace.
VIJAYAMMA S PILLAI (Wife)
Children & Grand Children
'Madhavi Nilayam' Peringala Kayamkulam, Kerala

Nadda denies Kharge's claims of fertiliser shortage

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Slamming Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his remarks on an alleged fertiliser shortage in the country, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers J P Nadda has said the Congress leader is peddling misinformation and trying to mislead farmers.

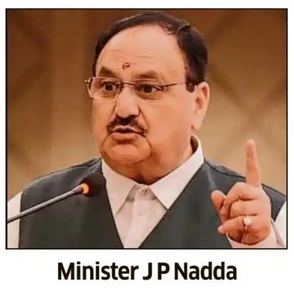
In a post on X, Nadda said Kharge's statement was aimed at "manufacturing panic where none exists".

Insisting that the availability of fertilisers has "consistently outpaced requirements" in the country, Nadda said that Kharge is treating farmers as a 'vote bank' and peddling misinformation instead of standing with them in good faith.

"It is very hard to believe that Kharge ji, being the Leader of the Opposition (in Rajya Sabha), is so highly misinformed. Or maybe it is the impact of the people around him who just want to mislead the country," Nadda said.

Asserting that the current stock position is significantly stronger than last year, Nadda said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indian farmers have been protected from global price shocks.

"While a bag of urea costs over Rs 4,000 internationally, our farmers receive it for just Rs 266.5. Similarly, since the Covid period, farmers have been getting a bag of DAP at Rs 1,350, which costs over Rs 4,000 globally," he said.


Minister J P Nadda

Mallikarjun Kharge

"DAP stocks are up by over 50%, NPK stocks have increased by around 30%, and urea continues to remain at high and stable levels," he said.

He said he has spoken to chief ministers and agriculture ministers of major states to ensure seamless availability of fertilisers.

"We are in constant coordination with state officials to take strict action against hoarding, diversion, black marketing and panic mongering. We have also secured 25 LMT of urea through global tendering, with Indian missions facilitating alternate sources of supply," he said.

Kharge alleged that the Modi government had scored a "double failure" in ensuring fuel and fertiliser security for the country. He also said that even before geopolitical disruptions, fertiliser shortages were already reported across multiple seasons.

"Indian farmers painfully suffer the consequences of BJP's apathy! Fertiliser production has now fallen to a 5-year low in March 2026, with a massive 24.6% year-on-year drop.

"China has already restricted specialised fertilisers in July 2025, but the Modi government did not bother to diversify imports. Russia has also now halted fertiliser exports," he said.

AAP, defectors lock horn as party workers stage protests

AAP, From PJ II

He referred to the BJP's fresh allegations of "Sheesh Mahal Part Two" against Kejriwal. The saffron party has alleged that a large amount was spent on the newly allotted bungalow in Lodhi Estate. The AAP rejected the claims, saying the photos circulated by BJP leaders were fake.

Chadha said the 'Sheesh Mahal' row related to the official residence of Kejriwal when he was the CM was one of the main reasons for the AAP's defeat in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections. He also claimed the MPs left the AAP together because they believe it has gone into "corrupt and compromised hands".

Separately, cricketer-turned-MP Harbhajan Singh, who also left the AAP, claimed that the leadership had asked him not to visit the Ram temple in Ayodhya, which he couldn't accept. Incidentally, Kejriwal himself had visited the Ram temple.

Another defected MP Swati Maliwal claimed that AAP had "strayed far" from its original principles and Kejriwal was no longer the same. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "decisive and strong leadership", she said the AAP has completely changed and is now known for "lies, corruption and hooliganism".

"The real betrayal is not leaving the party, but not standing by your own principles. People are not leaving out of fear; they are leaving because of Kejriwal... No good person can work with him for long. He says one thing and does another," she said.

Everything will be clear on May 4, the day of the results
Political Theatre
We are forming the govt for the fourth term in Bengal, and we will uproot the BJP from Delhi in the next two-three years

Poll metrics West Bengal Polls 2026 (Phase II)

Total candidates analysed **1,445**

Candidates have criminal cases **338 (23%)**

Candidates face serious criminal cases **295 (20%)**

Candidates have murder cases **16**

Attempt to murder: **80** candidates

BJP **102** (72%)
TMC **49** (35%)
CPM **51** (51%)
Cong **37** (26%)

Red alert constituencies
63 out of 142 (**44%**) constituencies defined as seats with **3+ candidates** facing criminal cases

Crorepatis
321 (22%)

Average assets per candidate: **Rs 1.21 cr**

Party-wise crorepati candidates

TMC	BJP	Cong	CPM
103	73	36	33

Average assets by party

TMC	BJP	CPM	Cong
Rs 5.05 cr	Rs 3.28 cr	Rs 1.22 cr	Rs 1.04 cr

Source: Association for Democratic Reforms

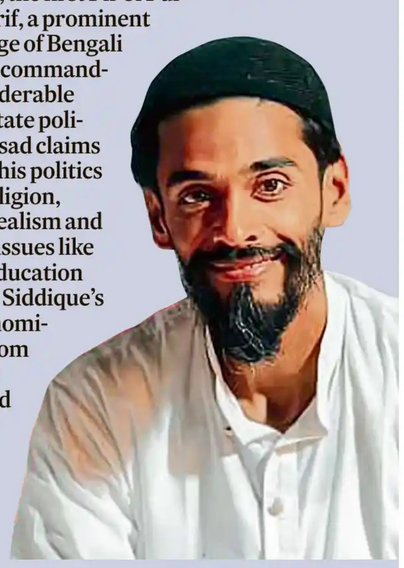
Meet the leader

Nawsad Siddique
Indian Secular Front
Bhangar

Indian Secular Front (ISF) leader and the party's lone MLA in the Bengal assembly wrested the Bhangar seat in 2021 from the TMC.

'Bhaijan' to his supporters, Nawsad's party fought the previous polls in alliance with the CPM-led Left Front, and is in discussions with the Front for a seat-sharing arrangement this time.

A descendant of Muhammad Abu Bakr Siddique, the first Pir of Furfura Sharif, a prominent pilgrimage of Bengali Muslims commanding considerable sway in state politics, Nawsad claims he bases his politics not on religion, but on idealism and people's issues like health, education and jobs. Siddique's likely renomination from Bhangar could lead to a full-blown turf battle in the region.



Trivia

The 1965 Assembly election in Kerala stands out for a peculiar reason. The polls were necessitated by the fall of the R Shankar-led Congress government through a no-confidence motion. However, after the election, no party or alliance was in a position to form a government. As a result, the Assembly itself could not be constituted. Among those elected was filmmaker Ramu Karyat, who was never able to officially serve as an MLA because the Assembly was dissolved.

CPM's young turk drives industry dreams, job promise in Amby-land

Minakshi Mukherjee blames Trinamool for closure of Hind Motor that manufactured Ambassador; says vacant land must be utilised

FROM THE GROUND

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
UTTARPARA (WEST BENGAL), DHNS

CPM candidate Minakshi Mukherjee, along with party state secretary Md Salim, during her campaign rally in Uttarapara.

The rusted and locked gates of Hindustan Motors in Uttarpara do not just mark the closure of a factory; they also tell the story of industrial decline in West Bengal. Within the gates was the birthplace of the iconic 'Ambassador', or 'Amby'; beyond them grew Hindmotor — a bustling, self-contained industrial township that slipped into a quieter and bleak present after the closure of the plant in 2014.

This silence echoes in the words of Minakshi Mukherjee — CPM's candidate in Uttarpara, Hooghly — as she walks through the neighbourhoods, greets people, leads bike rallies and road shows and addresses street meets.

Minakshi argues that industries have steadily shut shop during the Trinamool Congress regime, leaving behind vacant land and shrinking job opportunities.

"Unless we can reuse the vacant land and set up new industries, we cannot revive the local economy and generate jobs for local youth," says the 41-year-old firebrand leader. She accuses Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party and government of attempting to sell off the vacant industrial land.

WEST BENGAL Assembly Poll

As CPM, which led the Left Front government in West Bengal for 34 years, strives for a resurgence in West Bengal, it is relying on the likes of Minakshi.

The party fielded its young leaders in several constituencies across the state — Mayukh Biswas in Dum Dum, Dipsita Dhar in Dum Dum Uttar, Kalatan Dasgupta in Panihati and Afreen Begum in Ballygunge, among others.

The Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls in West Bengal triggered a high-pitched war of words between the ruling Trinamool and its principal rival, BJP, overshadowing other issues that generally dominate political discourse ahead of polls – like corruption, lack of employment opportunities, recruitment scams, closure of schools and irregularities in the healthcare sectors.

But CPM's 'young turks' are foregrounding the issues.

"Since the TMC came to power in 2011, 3,822 government schools have been shut down across West Bengal, while about 22,000 new liquor shops have been opened," says Minakshi, a postgraduate in political science from the University of Burdwan.

"In government hospitals, doctors have to wait for relatives of pregnant women to buy gloves from outside before helping them deliver, because the medical essentials are procured on paper, but not made available at healthcare centres."

Minakshi and her comrades prepared a manifesto specifically for Uttarpara — a document, which, according to the CPM candidate, was a result of her consultation with locals during more than 350 neighbourhood meetings the party had across the constituency.

She promised to fight for reviving the sporting and cultural heritage of Uttarpara, in addition to setting up green corridors and the overhaul of civil infrastructure.

"She talks about us, our lives, our children's future," Shyamal Das, 55, who once worked as a security guard at the plant of Hindustan Motors, but now sells vegetables to eke out a living for himself and his five-member family.

"She is well-mannered and down to earth. She must win," says his wife, Malati Das.

Minakshi – now a member of the CPM central committee – has against her Sirsanya, the son of Kalyan Bandopadhyay, a member of the TMC in Lok Sabha.

"The CPI(M) itself was responsible for the closure of Hindustan Motors. The Left Front is zero in the state assembly now," says the ruling party's candidate.

Known for her next-door-girl demeanour, down-to-earth image and fiery speeches, Minakshi has emerged as the 'captain' of the young Communists, many of whom join her on her campaign trail every day in Uttarpara.

"The people of West Bengal have rejected the divisive policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party. They have realised that the time has come to repose faith in the CPM again," says Minakshi, who also has the saffron party's Dipanjan Chakraborty against her.

Rahul turns heat on Modi, Mamata

Says both help the rich instead of the poor, while hankering for power

Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting in Hooghly district on Saturday. PTI

SERAMPORE (WB), PTI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday sought to put Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the same bracket, accusing both of helping the rich instead of the poor, while hankering for power.

Addressing an election rally at Serampore in the Hooghly district, Gandhi said that Modi "claims to be a 'deshbhakt' (patriot), but is selling off the country".

"While CM Mamata Banerjee is helping the rich, and not the poor in West Bengal, Modi is doing the same across the country... Both have nothing to do with creating job opportunities. They want power but don't work for people," he said.

"Wherever the PM goes, he spreads hatred and fear among people," the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha alleged.

He claimed that the country is witnessing a fight between two ideologies.

"It is the Congress' unity and brotherhood against the BJP and RSS' hatred and violence," he added.

"West Bengal used to be the centre of industry in the country, but first the Left Front and then the TMC destroyed everything," he claimed.

Stating that only Congress can fight the BJP based on ideology, Gandhi, at another public meeting in Kolkata, said, "We cannot compromise with them."

The Congress leader accused the Narendra Modi government of compromising the country's interests in the India-US trade deal.

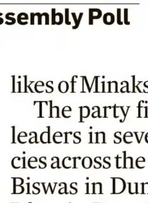
Alleging that Modi has done nothing for the welfare of the poorer sections of society, Gandhi said, "Whatever he does is in the interest of the super-rich."

Training his guns on the Mamata Banerjee dispensation, Gandhi accused it of destroying an industry-rich West Bengal and driving entrepreneurs away from the state.

"Mamata Banerjee is doing in West Bengal what Narendra Modi is doing across India," he said, claiming that the youths have not got employment opportunities as promised by them.

Telangana guv clears Azhar, Kodandaram as MLCs

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The prolonged suspense over two key Legislative Council nominations came to an end on Saturday as Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla approved the names of former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin and Telangana movement ideologue Prof K Kodandaram as MLCs under the Governor's quota, sources said.



Mohammad Azharuddin

Azharuddin was sworn in as a Cabinet minister on October 31, 2024, but had not secured membership of the House of the state legislature.

TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud welcomed the governor's decision, describing it as a positive and fitting development. He said nominating individuals who have served society with distinction in public life, sport and social movements reflected the strength of the democratic system.

Azharuddin's continuation in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy Cabinet hinged on the governor approving the Cabinet's recommendation to nominate him to the Legislative Council. The recommendation file, which included Prof Kodandaram's nomination alongside Azharuddin's, was submitted by the Cabinet in August 2024.

EXERCISING FRANCHISE

An elderly woman casts her vote through postal ballot facility for the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Nadia district, on Saturday. PTI

Crucial Guj local body polls today, stakes high for parties

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Polling for the crucial local body elections in Gujarat will be held on Sunday. A key grassroots-level contest a year ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, its outcome is said to be significant for the political parties.

While the ruling BJP has been dominating these self-governing bodies, the results will have a broader impact on the Opposition Congress and particularly the future of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

AAP, with its aggressive campaigning, had been stealing the limelight compared to a lacklustre Congress.

However, the party's momentum suffered a setback after seven of its MPs, led by Raghav Chadha, resigned and joined the BJP in New Delhi on Friday.

Whether it will have any impact in Gujarat will be known only on April 28, when the results will be announced.

AAP has been focusing on Patidar votes in Saurashtra and the tribal belt. The party has Gopal Italia, a Patidar leader and MLA from Visavadar in Junagadh, and Chaitar Vasava, an MLA from Dediapada, who are popular and have cultivated a strong support base.

A worrying trend for the BJP in Surat, its stronghold, has been the public protests against its leaders.

Over the past week, during campaigning, BJP leaders were stopped from entering several residential societies over neglect of civic issues.

Setback for AAP

The AAP suffered another blow after its social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram were blocked.

The party blamed BJP for it and claimed that since its accounts were being viewed widely, those were blocked.

POLL DIGEST

No repoll in Tamil Nadu: EC

CHENNAI, PTI: The Election Commission on Saturday said no repoll was recommended in any polling station in the Tamil Assembly election held on April 23.

The election was conducted in a total of 75,064 polling stations across the state, with as many as 4,023 candidates contesting.

In a statement, the ECI said the entire process was videographed, and after scrutiny, forms 17A and related materials were resealed with the election authorities' seal.

Stalin takes post-poll break

CHENNAI, PTI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin left for a short trip to Kodaikanal on Saturday.

Stalin flew by chartered aircraft to Madurai and then travelled by road to the hill station, known for its lakes, hills and greenery. He was accompanied by his wife Durga and family members.

The four-day break comes two days after the Tamil Nadu Assembly election concluded on April 23. He is expected to return to Chennai on April 29.

This is not the first post-poll visit. Stalin had earlier taken similar breaks in Kodaikanal after the 2021 Assembly elections and again following the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

CM talk: Cong warns leaders

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI: KPCC chief Sunny Joseph on Saturday directed party leaders and workers to refrain from making public statements on the selection of a CM if the UDF returns to power, warning that violations would be treated as indiscipline.

In a statement, he said such remarks were inappropriate and were embarrassing the party in public.

POLITICAL TAKE

'West Bengal outcome critical for the future of Left'

This edition of the Assembly elections has entered its final leg. CPI General Secretary **D Raja** spoke to *DH*'s **Shemin Joy** about the Left's prospects and the BJP's strategy in the polls. Excerpts:

You have travelled to Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Is the BJP gaining in these elections?
No, I don't think so. The BJP is trying hard through manipulation and money power. People in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and elsewhere see the BJP as a threat to their culture and language. They talk about One Nation, One Religion, One Language, and One Culture.

During this election campaign, we saw workers taking to the streets to protest, especially in Noida. How significant is this issue in these elections?
That is because the government is aggressively pursuing anti-worker policies such as the Labour Code.

The Modi government's policies are disastrous for workers.

This is the fourth election since the Left lost Bengal. Do you see the Left's revival in Bengal?
This is a common concern among us. If we fail to revive and re-emerge as a force capable of shaping Bengal's politics, it will be very tough and challenging. For the future of the Left, Bengal is a critical state. We understand this.

After the elections, where do you see the Left in Bengal? What kind of narrative will you push?
We have to project an economic and political alternative. Ideologically, we fight right-wing communal forces. That is why leaders, starting from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, consider communism a dangerous ideology. But the Left has not yet emerged as a force to reckon with.

Why do you think the BJP brought the delimitation bill linked to women's quota in the midst of elections?
The timing, as well as the clubbing of delimitation and women's quota, is highly questionable. They should not have convened the special sitting in the first place. The saffron party tried this route because the BJP was finding the elections difficult. The government did nothing after the women's quota law was passed in 2023. They think they can woo people by showing they are for women's quota.

> **The BJP is trying hard through manipulation and money power. People in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and elsewhere see the BJP as a threat to their culture and language**
> D Raja

We saw Rahul Gandhi attacking the Left in Kerala. Do you think such moves will impact Opposition unity?
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should reflect on this. Remarks from local leaders can be understood, but leaders of his stature should exercise restraint.

What do you think will happen in the Kerala elections?
Kerala was among the first places in the world to elect a communist government. I am confident history will be created again, with a communist government elected for the third consecutive time. Neither the Congress-led UDF nor the BJP has been able to challenge the LDF on the basis of its performance. The LDF will secure decent numbers to form the government.

Who will be the chief minister if you win?
The LDF will decide.

What is your take on Tamil Nadu?
My understanding is that the DMK-led coalition will emerge victorious. Our coalition is united in the fight for social justice, equality and secularism.

THE CURIOUS COMEBACK

BJP's unusual reappointment raises political intrigue

Harivansh's unexpected rise as RS deputy chairperson

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The ruling BJP has never rushed to fill the vacancy for a nominated member in the Rajya Sabha this fast, and no MP was nominated to the Upper House by the President using a Constitutional provision despite his party — the JD(U) — not giving him a third term in the Upper House.

Harivansh holds not just these records. He became the first nominated MP to become the Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson on April 17 in an election "boycotted" by the Opposition, claiming that the BJP had not been this keen in electing a Lok Sabha deputy speaker for the past seven years.

Why the BJP, despite having numbers and experienced in-house talent, chose to go with an "outsider" — and that too using an unusual route — to fill the vacancy is still a mystery. Harivansh's second term ended on April 9, and the President appointed him a nominated MP the next morning. Seven days later, he was again the Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson.

The BJP could have got Harivansh elected from a state, but it didn't. Its most recent "outsider" experiment — Jagdeep Dhankhar as vice-president — had ended on a bitter note. The political grapevine was that even Harivansh's parent party — the JD(U) — was not consulted on his renomination. Harivansh had earned the trust of the top two in the BJP: Narendra Modi and Amit Shah.

Incidentally, the new RS deputy chairperson is also a nominated MP who could not vote in the Presidential election. He is also not a representative of a state in the Rajya Sabha, which is the Council of States.

Rare feat

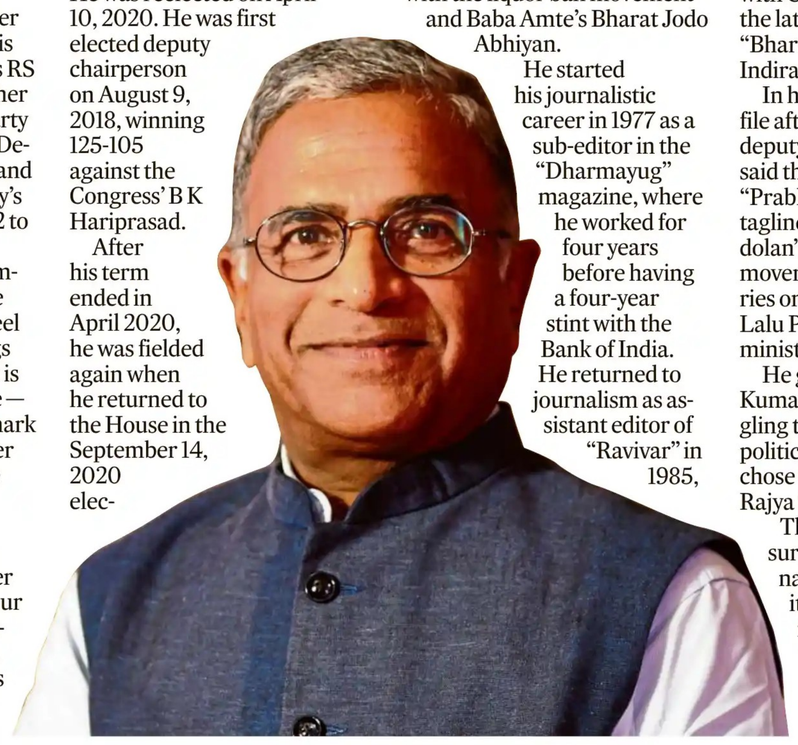
Harivansh, who succeeded the Congress' P J Kurien after his retirement in July 2018, is only the third non-Congress RS deputy chairperson. The other two were the Republican Party of India's B D Khobragade (December 1969 to April 1972) and the Samyukta Socialist Party's Godey Murahari (April 1972 to March 1977 in two terms).

A postgraduate in economics, Harivansh appears to be an important cog in the wheel of the BJP's scheme of things in the Rajya Sabha, where it is inching towards dominance — to the two-thirds majority mark of 163 — by the year-end after the defection of seven of the AAP's 10 MPs.

The Ballia-born journalist-turned-MP, who worked as an official language officer with the Bank of India for four years in Hyderabad and Patna in the early 1980s before returning to journalism, has had run-ins with the Opposition, which submitted a notice to have him removed from the deputy chairperson post. The then chairperson, M Venkaiah Naidu, rejected it.

The Opposition was upset with the way he presided over the passage of the three contentious Farm Bills, which the government was forced to subsequently withdraw owing to unprecedented farmers' protests.

The 69-year-old has been a Rajya Sabha member from Bihar since April 10, 2014. He was reelected on April 10, 2020. He was first elected deputy chairperson on August 9, 2018, winning 125-105 against the Congress' B K Hariprasad.



After his term ended in April 2020, he was fielded again when he returned to the House in the September 14, 2020 election, in which he defeated the RJD's Manoj K Jha by voice vote.

Professional prowess

Growing up as a socialist, he hosted a meeting attended by Jayaprakash Narain at the Banaras Hindu University, where he was studying, months before the veteran leader launched his movement from Patna in Bihar. Later, he was active in the RTI and literacy movements in Jharkhand, besides associating with the liquor ban movement and Baba Amte's Bharat Jodo Abhiyan.

He started his journalistic career in 1977 as a sub-editor in the "Dharmayug" magazine, where he worked for four years before having a four-year stint with the Bank of India. He returned to journalism as assistant editor of "Ravivar" in 1985, before becoming the chief editor of "Prabhat Khabar" four years later.

Active in the socialist circles then, he was close to Chandra Shekhar. When the latter became the prime minister, he chose Harivansh as his media advisor. This stint lasted for only seven months, after which Harivansh returned to "Prabhat Khabar", which became known for its investigative stories under him.

Years ago, he also travelled with Chandra Shekhar when the latter embarked on a "Bharat Yatra" in 1983 against Indira Gandhi, the then PM.

In his September 2020 profile after his re-election as the deputy chairperson, *DH* had said that under his editorship, "Prabhat Khabar" — with the tagline "Akhbar Nahin, Aandolan" (not a newspaper but a movement) — broke many stories on the fodder scam when Lalu Prasad was the Bihar chief minister.

He grew closer to Nitish Kumar, who was initially struggling to find his feet in Bihar politics, and the JD(U) chief chose to send him to Delhi as a Rajya Sabha member in 2014.

The *DH* profile then said it surprised some of his journalistic peers, who viewed it as an "anti-establishment editor" becoming the "face of the establishment". Harivansh has another six years to disprove them!

'Soulless puppet': Kavitha slams KCR, floats new party

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's daughter, K Kavitha addresses the formation of her new political party 'Telangana Rashtra Sena' in Medcha on Saturday. PTI

Former MLC K Kavitha on Saturday made a scathing attack on her father, former Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, calling him a puppet and a machine-man who has lost his emotional connection with the state and its people.

Kavitha's comments come on the sidelines of the launch of her political party, Telangana Rashtra Sena (TRS), a name that deliberately echoes the former identity of the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

KCR had renamed the original Telangana Rashtra Samithi to BRS several years ago.

Continuing her tirade against the senior political leader who was the driving force behind the formation of Telangana, Kavitha said she felt ashamed to be part of a family that ruled Telangana for nearly a decade.

"He is not our KCR. He is a changed man, a machine-man," she said, adding that she spoke those words with sorrow, not joy.

Kavitha said she was suspended from the party for speaking out against corruption, while those she described as "corrupt rats" were kept close to KCR. "I was suspended for speaking the truth. KCR is now a soulless puppet, held captive among foxes and wolves," she said.

She criticised BRS, headed by her brother K T Rama Rao, for failing to function as an effective opposition.

Kavitha questioned whether KCR had severed his emotional connection with Telangana after coming to power, and criticised his pivot toward a national political footprint. "He is no longer mana manishi (our man), but has become mara manishi (machine man)," she said.

Five-pronged strategy

During the launch of the new political entity, Kavitha also unveiled a five-pronged strategy, which she called Panchajanya, for the welfare of Telangana.

Positioning herself as a nurturing leader — the "Amma", or mother — of Telangana, she described the launch of TRS as an attempt to realign the state with the original aspirations of the Telangana movement.

"The chariot of the Telangana movement lost its way over time and failed to fully understand the hardships faced by the people. The BRS may be functioning technically, but it has lost its soul and context, the very essence of Telangana," she said, adding that this vacuum had prompted her to act.

Amid protests, Manipur CM urges kin to accept bodies

Government steps up probe as unrest and protests continue

IMPHAL, PTI

Protesters gather amid clashes after thousands demanding permanent peace were stopped from marching towards the chief minister's residence in Imphal on Saturday. PTI

Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh on Saturday appealed to the family of the two children killed in a bomb attack in Bishnupur district to accept their bodies, which have remained in a morgue for over two weeks.

A five-year-old boy and his six-month-old sister died in the blast at Bishnupur district's Tronglaobi on April 7. Their family had said they would not accept the bodies until those responsible were arrested.

Addressing a press conference after a meeting with Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) representatives, Singh said the government was working with security agencies to trace those behind the attack.

"We are also in talks with the families of the deceased and the Joint Action Committee formed in connection with the incident. The state government is deeply pained that the bodies of the two children are still in the morgue," he said.

Singh also called for dialogue and cooperation to restore peace, noting that prolonged shutdowns and unrest were affecting daily wage earners and students.

Earlier in the day, thousands of people protested in Imphal under the COCOMI's banner, demanding justice for the two children, rehabilitation of displaced persons, and lasting peace. Protesters marching towards the chief minister's residence were stopped by security forces at several points. In some areas, police used tear gas shells after demonstrators attempted to breach barricades, officials said.

Subsequently, a delegation of protesters was allowed to meet the CM and submit a memorandum to him.

Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam, who was present at the press conference, said, "We had previously invited COCOMI for a meeting, but that was declined. We were aware of today's rally. The government has always allowed peaceful and non-violent protests. Today, the Chief Minister met representatives and heard their grievances."

"A memorandum consisting of seven questions was submitted by COCOMI representatives. The government is committed to protecting indigenous communities," he said.

More than 260 people have been killed and thousands displaced in ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki groups in the northeastern state since May 2023.

AAP rejects BJP's 'Sheesh Mahal 2' charge against Kejriwal

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP on Saturday accused AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal of spending private money on the government bungalow recently allotted to him at Lodhi Estate in New Delhi, dubbing it "Sheesh Mahal 2".

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, speaking to reporters at the BJP headquarters, showed pictures of the designs of the house.

In response, the AAP called the pictures "fake", pointing to similar images found across the internet.

The Central government recently allotted the Type-VII bungalow at 95, Lodi Estate to Kejriwal for his position as the convener of a national party.

Calling it another case of "Sheesh Mahal", a reference to the controversy over costly renovations to his earlier official bungalow at Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines, Verma alleged that the Central PWD did not incur such expenditure on official residences.

"This is a government-allocated house, but the money invested in this house is not government funds. Every penny invested is private money. His own bedroom is looking like a seven-star Goa hotel room. There are a total of five bedrooms," said Verma.

SAURABH BHARADWAJ
Senior AAP leader

"The seven MPs who left had already stopped asking questions long ago, so their departure makes no difference. All conspiracies are aimed at breaking the morale of AAP karyakartas, but we will not stop asking questions.

The bungalow also has four drawing rooms and amenities superior to those of leaders of other Opposition parties, including the Congress and the DMK, he claimed, demanding that Kejriwal disclose the total expenditure on the residence and the source of the funding.

The AAP swiftly rejected the allegations. Party leader Atishi, in a post on X, called the photographs produced by Verma fabricated.

"They are not pictures of Kejriwal's house," she wrote, challenging Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and the Lt-Governor to open their own residences to public scrutiny.

The "Sheesh Mahal" charge had become a key electoral plank in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections earlier last year, which the BJP won, with Verma defeating Kejriwal for the New Delhi seat

Aam Aadmi Party battles perception crisis

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal

The defection of seven of its Rajya Sabha members to the BJP came at the most inopportune time for the AAP, as it prepared for the Assembly polls in Punjab, where it is in a do-or-die battle to remain in power while trying to grow elsewhere in the country.

The biggest and the most immediate challenge before AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal is to battle the perception that the party is tottering, amid the growing chatter about disaffection among a section of its MLAs — especially in Delhi and Punjab.

Several key leaders quit AAP over the years, but the latest crisis is different, as it has, for the first time, impacted the AAP Legislature Party, indicating that losing power in Delhi — which is seen as Kejriwal's defeat — has impacted the party's functioning.

No one in the AAP would concede it, but Friday's developments have rattled the party.

Raghav Chadha — who was once Kejriwal's blue-eyed boy and led the latest exodus — may have lost a million followers on Instagram in a day after his switch to the BJP, but he has emerged as the go-to person for disgruntled leaders eyeing a switch.

In such a scenario, the immediate task for Kejriwal and Co is to ensure that AAP MLAs remain in the stable. Already, there is speculation that around half a dozen of its 22 Delhi MLAs are in touch with the BJP. Several of its councillors joined the saffron camp some time ago.

The AAP was unable to capitalise on the court discharge of Kejriwal and others in the excise policy case, uncharacteristic of a party that had grabbed even a half-chance.

It remains to be seen how the AAP navigates the next seven months in Punjab, where Kejriwal and his Man Friday, Manish Sisodia, had been spending more time in the past months.

Soon after the Delhi debacle, Kejriwal had to call Punjab MLAs to Delhi to quell disquiet and manage the flock.

The defections also exposed Kejriwal's choices and his inability to manage his close aides' egos. Three of the seven defectors are businessmen, while one is a sportsperson — all of them with little political exposure. The other three fell out in the past couple of years over questions of prominence and access.

The Congress' Jairam Ramesh and CPM general secretary M A Baby aptly described the AAP's troubles.

"The BJP washing machine is back, along with the Modi washing powder. Those who projected themselves as paragons of virtue, integrity, and ideology stand brutally exposed," said Ramesh

"A reminder: Without ideological commitment, politics is fragile and a marketplace of power," said Baby.

Be exceptionally vigilant: FM to financial sector amid Mythos concerns

MUMBAI, PTI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday urged all entities in the financial sector to be "exceptionally vigilant" on cybersecurity.

Without naming Mythos, the new platform from leading AI company Anthropic, Nirmala said artificial intelligence (AI) tools were making cyberattacks faster and more adaptive. Such tools could also evade detection by deploying tactics like automated discovery of system vulnerabilities and malicious source-code interference, she added.

"...Not just Sebi but all regulated entities will have to remain exceptionally vigilant. The tools of attack are evolving at high speed, and the tools of defence must evolve even faster," said Nirmala at the 28th foundation day event of the capital markets regulator.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates the 'Jagruk' campaign during the 38th Sebi foundation day in Mumbai. PTI

The comments come amid heightened fears over the capabilities of Mythos, which has regulators and policymakers scrambling globally to understand it and find ways to safeguard their systems.

The government had called a meeting of top bankers with ministers, including Nirmala and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnav, in New Delhi on Thursday, where it announced the formation of a dedicated panel under SBI chairman C S Setty for the purpose.

On Saturday, Nirmala warned that a single successful cyberattack on a major exchange, depository, or large broker could disrupt markets nationally, erase wealth, and shake public confidence, and urged Sebi to meet the emerging challenges of cybersecurity.

IN BRIEF

47 Maoists surrender in Telangana

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Around 47 CPI (Maoist) cadres from the South Bastar Division Committee of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee surrendered before the Telangana Police on Saturday and handed over 32 firearms.

Among those who surrendered were senior leaders.

Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy said with the neutralisation of almost all key leaders and armed cadres of the South Bastar DVC, the division is now on the brink of collapse.

J'khand: 2 killed in wild elephant attack

SERAIKELA, PTI: A woman and her teenage daughter were killed while two other family members were injured in an attack by a herd of elephants in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharswan district, a police officer said on Saturday.

The incident occurred in Hadat village when a herd of wild elephants entered the village late on Friday night and damaged some houses, the police officer said.

Five members of a family were trapped under the debris. A police team reached the spot and recovered two bodies.

Unwarranted: Ex-Army chief on memoir row

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former Army chief Gen Manoj Naravane has come out with two books since his unpublished memoir, "Four Stars of Destiny", caused a controversy earlier this year. Looking back, he said it was "not warranted" to unnecessarily drag him into the limelight for the book.

The general said he had moved on and already written two books, with a third to be released soon.

In February this year, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was stopped from quoting from the memoir in the Lok Sabha as it had not been published yet.

HC raps UP cops for 'chasing' couples & not solving crimes

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Allahabad High Court came down heavily on the Uttar Pradesh Police for registering FIRs against adult couples who married against their families' wishes, quashing one such FIR against a couple following a complaint by the woman's father, who claimed that his daughter had been abducted and forced into marriage.

The court made the observation recently while quashing the FIR against the couple.

It expressed serious concern over what it said was a disturbing trend of the police chasing couples and investigating marriages instead of crimes.

It said that it was nobody's business to tell an adult where they would stay, with whom they would live, or whom they would marry or spend their life with.

The court said that the actions of the police were, in fact, a "disservice" and that such actions were not only illegal but might also amount to offences in some cases.

The court added that chasing young couples, at times with ulterior motives to forcibly separate them and send the bride back to the parents, was illegal.

The court directed the state police chief and the additional chief secretary (home) to take remedial action, and warned that it would be forced to intervene if such action was not taken.

ON THE MENU Taipei wary of concessions as US prez set to meet Chinese leader

Fears grow that Taiwan could be traded in Trump-Xi deal

BLOOMBERG

A senior Taiwanese official has expressed concern that President Donald Trump might make concessions on the self-governed island during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, adding that Taiwan is working hard to prevent such a scenario.

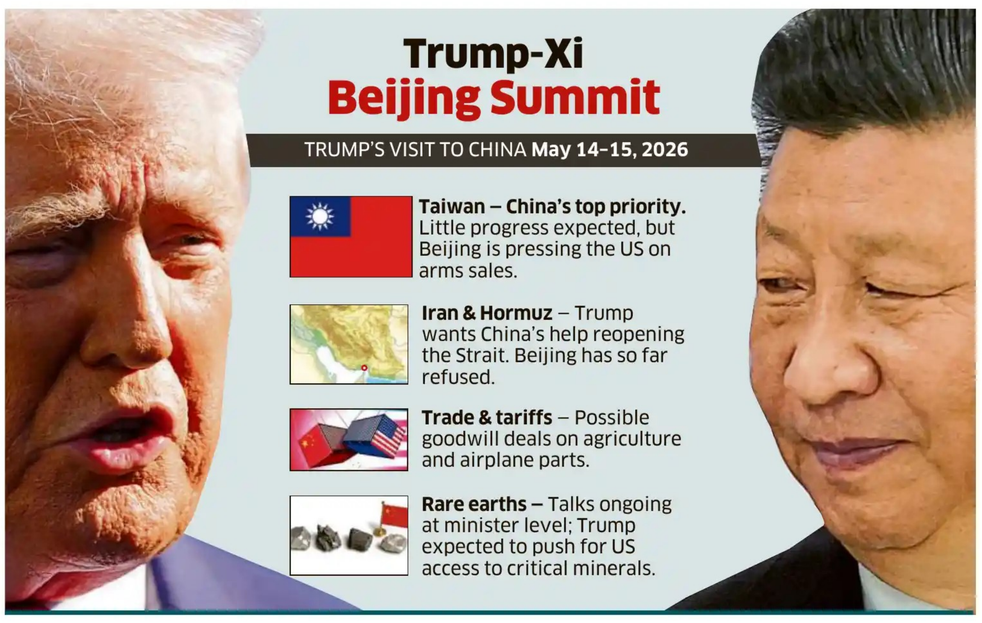
"What we are most afraid of is Taiwan being put on the menu of the talks between Xi Jinping and President Trump," Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Wu said on Friday in an English-language interview with Bloomberg News. "We worry, and we need to avoid that happening."

Trump is set to travel to Beijing on May 14–15 for a summit with Xi that is widely expected to include a variety of business deals and purchasing commitments. It was delayed from late March because of the Iran war and the need for Trump to remain in Washington.

Taiwan — a democratic island claimed as Chinese territory by Beijing — is high on Xi's list of priorities. At the meeting, Xi is likely to press Trump to agree to change the island's status by opposing Taiwan's independence. A verbal confirmation of that or a formal change in US policy would be a major win for Beijing.

Asked whether the US has given Taipei any assurances that the language will not be changed, Wu said: "Nothing is 100% certain."

But Wu remained optimistic, noting that Taiwan has been seeking to expand shared interests with the US, particularly through the island's semiconductor industry and its significant investments in America. "The more we share common national interests, the more I think we feel comfortable that we will not be put on the menu," he said. "For now, we feel comfortable."


Trump-Xi
Beijing Summit
TRUMP'S VISIT TO CHINA May 14–15, 2026
Taiwan – China's top priority. Little progress expected, but Beijing is pressing the US on arms sales.
Iran & Hormuz – Trump wants China's help reopening the Strait. Beijing has so far refused.
Trade & tariffs – Possible goodwill deals on agriculture and airplane parts.
Rare earths – Talks ongoing at minister level; Trump expected to push for US access to critical minerals.

A White House official said Trump expects a very positive visit with Xi and that the administration's stance on relations with Taiwan, known as the One China policy, remains unchanged.

Under the policy, the US acknowledges Beijing as China's sole government without clarifying its position on Taiwan's legal status. The US has maintained unofficial relations with Taipei under that arrangement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing did not respond to a request for comment outside normal working hours.

While Trump often speaks warmly of Xi, he has several advisers who are hawkish on China and who have intervened in the past, including during internal debates over whether to allow China to purchase Nvidia Corp.'s advanced Blackwell chip, according to people familiar with the matter.

Residual worry

Engagements between Taipei and Washington have been positive, the people said, but they added that it is impossible to obtain reassurance from the White House about what exactly will be discussed or agreed at the Beijing summit.

They also said Trump's aides do not know — and do not claim to know — how the meeting will unfold. For Taiwan, the US is an important security and strategic partner, and relations are built on "shared values and a long history of cooperation," Wu said.

Taiwan also recognises the need to "strengthen its connections with the international community, particularly by deepening cooperation with like-minded countries such as those in Europe, in order to enhance overall resilience and deterrence," he added.

US officials have said the Trump-Xi meeting will focus on trade and investment matters. They want to use the Beijing trip to secure better access to critical minerals and rare earths, which China last year restricted through sweeping export controls.

While the flow of these metals and minerals has picked up since the two leaders reached an agreement last autumn in South Korea, trade has still not returned to pre-control levels.

Another key outcome for Beijing would be restraining US arms sales to Taiwan. Trump this year delayed a weapons package to Taipei following pressure from Xi and said he was "talking to him about it", adding that he would make a determination "pretty soon".

The comment alarmed some officials in Washington and Taipei, as well as US lawmakers. Still, people familiar with the deliberations believe the pause is temporary and that the package will proceed after the May summit.

China's ruling Communist Party considers Taiwan its territory and has vowed to claim it someday, despite never having controlled the democratic island. Officials in Taiwan reject that stance, saying the island is de facto independent and has never been governed by Beijing.

Trump told the New York Times earlier this year that it was "up to Xi" what the Chinese leader would do with Taiwan, but that it was unlikely he would act while Trump is president and that the US leader would be "very unhappy" if he did. The US this week seized an Iranian tanker that Trump said contained a "gift from China" — possibly rocket fuel and other inputs. This came after Trump said he had received written commitments from Xi that China would not send arms to Iran.

"I was a little surprised because I have a very good relationship and thought I had an understanding with President Xi," Trump said on CNBC's Squawk Box this week. "But that's all right. That's the way war goes, right?"

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Residents leave the site of an apartment building hit by a Russian drone and missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Dnipro, Ukraine on Saturday. REUTERS

Gayatri Devi's historic astronomical computer to be auctioned in UK

▸ A rare 17th-century brass astrolabe — a hand-held astronomical "supercomputer" — from Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur's collection is set to fetch millions at a Sotheby's auction in London next week, PTI reports.

The astrolabe, which forms the centrepiece of the auction house's 'Arts of the Islamic World and India' sale on Wednesday, went on display this weekend and is estimated to fetch between £1.5 million and £2.5 million. Dating back to 1612, it is believed to be the largest of its kind and was created by two brothers for a powerful Mughal nobleman in Lahore. The intricate device was part of the royal collection of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II and, by descent, his wife Gayatri Devi, Rajmata of Jaipur, before passing into a private collection. "It was commissioned by Aqa Afzal, a very powerful Mughal nobleman who at the time oversaw the administration of Lahore under Emperor Jahangir, and the object was clearly conceived as something befitting a man of his considerable standing," the auction notes state.

Oil tanker hijacked off Somalia

▸ An oil tanker has been hijacked off the coast of Somalia and taken into its territorial waters, the British maritime security agency UKMTO said on Saturday, AFP reports from Addis Ababa.

The development added to risks for navigating in the Red Sea, which has become a more important supply route given the Iranian stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula. The tanker was seized northeast of the Somali city of Mareeyo on Tuesday, UKMTO said. "Military Authorities have reported unauthorised persons taking control of the tanker and manoeuvring the vessel 77NM south within Somali territorial waters," it said. Somali authorities did not immediately respond to queries about the hijacking. Somalia is an unstable Horn of Africa country in which the central government contends with a fractured federation of semi-autonomous states, as well as frequent attacks by the Al-Qaeda-linked militant group Al-Shabaab.

Palestinians vote in first elections since Gaza war

Low voter turnout signals public disillusionment

RAMALLAH, AFP

Palestinians in the West Bank and central Gaza voted on Saturday in municipal elections, the first since the war in Gaza erupted, with low turnout and a limited political field

Nearly 1.5 million people are registered to vote in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, as well as 70,000 in Gaza's Deir el-Balah area, according to the Ramallah-based Central Elections Commission. In the opening hours, a steady trickle of voters made their way to polling stations in Al-Bireh in the West Bank and Deir el-Balah.

By late morning, turnout was low at 15 per cent, rising to 24.53 per cent by 1 pm (1000 GMT), the election commission said. An AFP journalist reported near-empty polling stations across parts of the West Bank, as foreign diplomats observed the process.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas casts his vote in the municipal elections in Ramallah on Saturday. Palestinians began voting on April 25 in municipal elections in a first vote since the Gaza war. AFP

"We are very pleased to exercise democracy in spite of the many challenges we face, both locally and internationally," Mahmud Abbas told journalists after voting in Al-Bireh, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

Voter Khalid Eid said he hoped for change in council composition."We cannot change the situation, but we hope to replace people — people who might be better and help develop the community," the 55-year-old told AFP.

Some questioned the timing of the elections. "We did not want elections at this time — not with the war in Gaza and settler attacks ongoing in the West Bank," said Ziad Hassan, a businessman from Dura Al-Qaraa village.

"The decision was imposed on us, and so we are compelled to elect an administrative body for the village council." Israeli settler attacks have surged in recent months and have become a major concern. "The main thing is security from settlers. That is why we need new faces — young people willing to fight for our rights," said Abed Jabaieh, 68, former mayor of Ramun village.

Most electoral lists are aligned with Abbas's secular-nationalist Fatah movement or are composed of independents.

Gunfire, blasts rock Mali as attackers hit capital and other cities

DAKAR (SENEGAL), AP/PTI

Gunmen attacked several locations in Mali's capital and other cities early on Saturday in a possible coordinated assault, residents and authorities said.

Mali's army said in a statement that "unidentified armed terrorist groups targeted certain locations and barracks" in Bamako and that soldiers were "engaged in eliminating the attackers".

It said in a later statement that the situation was under control.

Mali has been plagued by insurgencies involving affiliates of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group, as well as a separatist rebellion in the north.

An Associated Press journalist in Bamako heard sustained heavy weapons and automatic rifle fire coming from Modibo Keïta International Airport, around 15 kilometres from the city centre, and saw a helicopter over nearby neighbourhoods.

The airport is adjacent to an air base used by Mali's air force. A resident living near the airport also reported gunfire and three helicopters patrolling overhead.

Armed members of an unidentified group gather in Kidal, Mali, on Saturday. REUTERS

Residents in other cities in Mali reported gunfire and blasts on Saturday morning, suggesting a coordinated attack by armed groups.

A resident of Kati, a town near Bamako that is home to Mali's main military base, said he was woken early by the sounds of gunfire and explosions. Gen Assimi Goita, the leader of Mali's military junta, resides in Kati.

Videos on social media showed militant convoys in trucks and on motorcycles moving through the town's deserted streets, while residents looked on fearfully. Other videos from the northern towns of Kidal and Gao showed exchanges of gunfire in the streets, with bodies lying on the ground.

US hunting Iranian mines in Hormuz amid risks

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: President Donald Trump says the US Navy is clearing Iranian mines from the Strait of Hormuz, a vital sea route for oil shipments whose disruption is increasingly threatening the global economy.

Sweeping for underwater explosives could take months despite a tenuous ceasefire between the United States and Iran in the weeks-long war, experts say.

Any future claims that the US has cleared the waterway, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil typically passes, may fail to convince commercial freighters and their insurers that it is safe.

"You don't even have to have laid mines — you just have to make people believe that you've laid mines," said Emma Salisbury, a scholar at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's National Security Programme.

"And even if the US sweeps the strait and says everything is clear, all the Iranians have to do is say, 'Well, actually, you haven't found them all yet,'" said Salisbury, who is also a fellow at the Royal Navy Strategic Studies Centre.

A sumo wrestler holds a child during the "crying baby sumo" match at Sensoji temple in Tokyo on Saturday. Japanese parents believe that sumo wrestlers can help make babies cry out a wish to grow up with good health. AFP

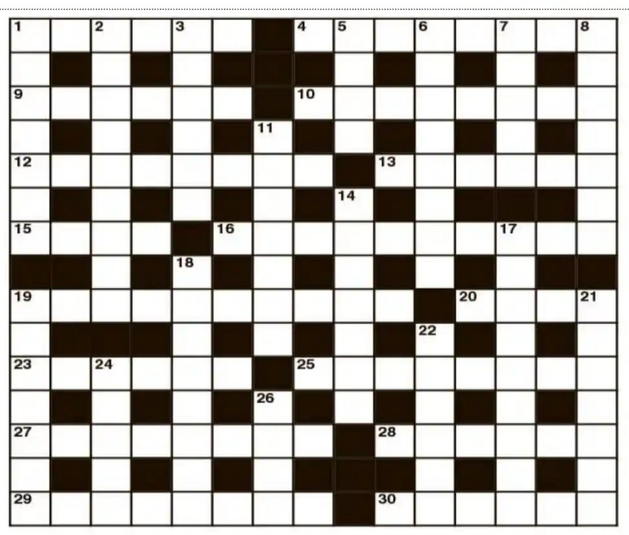
B'desh police issue security alert

▸ Bangladesh Police have issued a nationwide security alert over possible militant attacks on key installations, including the parliament complex, officials and media reports said on Saturday.

"The alert has been issued based on intelligence reports," a Police Headquarters (PHQ) official said, requesting anonymity. The official described the alert as "urgent and confidential". A PHQ letter warned of possible coordinated attacks targeting the parliament complex, places of worship, entertainment facilities, and military and police installations, with armouries seen as potential targets, Bengali daily Prothom Alo reported. The Daily Star and other newspapers said the alert was issued after the recent arrest of a banned militant outfit operative, Istiak Ahmed Sami alias Abu Bakkar, who was allegedly in contact with two dismissed military personnel.

According to reports, the letter also included profiles of two alleged key planners behind the potential attacks, but did not name any organisation. It described the suspected perpetrators as "extremely dangerous for the overall security of the country". Quoting law enforcement officials, news portal tbsnews.net said the militant group could adopt multiple methods to carry out attacks.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2677 ◆



ACROSS
1 Self-effacing (6)
4 Get a move on! (4,2,2)
9 Sea between Greece and Turkey (6)
10 A negative aspect (8)
12 Utterly exhausted (4,4)
13 Special aptitude (6)
15 Discourteous (4)
16 Avoidance of attention (3,7)
19 Overbearing (4-6)
20 Check the flow of (4)
23 Kind of seeds yielding oil (6)
25 Itinerant medieval singer (8)
27 Safe and sound (3,5)
28 Fanatic (6)
29 Unending future time (8)
30 Capital of Turkey (6)

DOWN
1 Follow winding course (7)
2 Ruthlessly competitive (3-3-3)
3 Contemptible (6)
5 Conveyed (4)
6 US Defense Department HQ (8)
7 Ingenuous (5)
8 Field of operations (7)
11 US pop singer and actress (7)
14 Shakespearean tragic heroine (7)
17 Among other things (5,4)
18 Support the cause of (8)
19 Captive held as security (7)
21 Force of citizen soldiers (7)
22 Away to the rear (6)
24 Clear up (5)
26 An attempt (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4037

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, P-atna rice 10, Leave out 12, No-L-a 13, Import 14, Tr-IV-ial 15, Reach I-and 17, P-Art-I-ally 18, Se-cured 20, Ran-c-id 21, O-pen 24, Green-fly 26, Bad-in-age 28, Over 29, Bridle (bridal) 31, Grasses 34, Ma-de notes 36, Close call 38, Can-apes 39, Stands 40, Eyes (ayes) 41, Make sure 42, Trans-pose.
DOWN: 1, Up in arms 2, St-Ella 3, Firm hand 4, Second 5, Flat spin 6, Master-mind 7, Rev-I-sit 8, Mur-iel 11, P-Laying 16, H-arm-e'd 19, Car-V-e 20, Ray 22, Pages 23, In-S-ane 25, First issue 26, Bee(B) 27, Dor-mice 30, Des-Isted 31, Good deal 32, Spla-she'd 33, Snapper 35, Den-I-Al 36, Ch-arts 37, Anyhow.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Uncharted 10, Claptrap 12, Eden 13, Trauma 14, Bladder 15, Abstinent 17, Greyhound 18, Marines 20, Unyoke 21, Soot 24, Contrite 26, Garrison 28, Ante 29, Impala 31, Catarrh 34, Renounces 36, Liberated 38, Kestrel 39, Mutant 40, Lean 41, Plankton 42, Acoustics.
DOWN: 1, Lukewarm 2, Access 3, Starkers 4, Adjust 5, Scraggly 6, Lawbreaker 7, Attache 8, Landau 11, Erudite 16, Ignite 19, Roost 20, Use 22, Odour 23, Bitter 25, Immaculate 26, Goa 27, Paprika 30, Assuming 31, Cabin boy 32, Hedonist 33, Current 35, Nestle 36, Lethal 37, Thesis.

SU DO KU X - 3897

								9
							1	
		9			1		2	
							8	
	2			6	5			
7				9			5	
3		8	9			4		
				2				
	1				4		6	

SOLUTION TO 3896

1	6	2	3	9	7	5	8	4
5	4	3	8	2	6	7	1	9
8	9	7	1	4	5	3	6	2
9	8	1	6	3	2	4	7	5
7	3	6	4	5	1	9	2	8
2	5	4	9	7	8	1	3	6
3	1	8	5	6	9	2	4	7
4	7	5	2	8	3	6	9	1
6	2	9	7	1	4	8	5	3

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DIVIDING OPINIONS New DNA testing plan enters Indian athletics amid curiosity, caution and unanswered questions

The GENESIS of contention

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sports science, once a peripheral support system, is now central to elite sport; shaping not just performance but careers. Few examples capture this evolution better than Jasprit Bumrah, whose unconventional bowling action -- marked by short run-up and explosive release -- has long been a subject of biomechanical scrutiny, with experts pointing to the stress it places on the lower back.

Rather than altering the action drastically, the management has focused on careful workload monitoring and structured rehabilitation, allowing him to remain effective across formats despite recurring injury concerns.

Globally, similar stories show how deeply sport has embraced science. Lionel Messi's longevity at the highest level has been aided by meticulous load management and injury-prevention protocols while Stephen Curry rebuilt his career through movement science after early ankle issues.

In India, this transformation in Olympic sports has gathered pace over the past decade or less. For that matter, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has increasingly leaned on biomechanics and performance analytics to bridge the gap with global standards. The appointment of German javelin expert Klaus Bartonietz proved pivotal in shaping the rise of Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra as the duo found common ground in their ideas.

While sports science since then has proved crucial in development of other athletes too, AFI's latest foray into Project GENESIS has sparked both intrigue and unease.

Announced following discussions at the federation's Annual General Meeting in Kohima earlier this month, the initiative proposes DNA testing of India's top track and field athletes with the stated aim of improving injury management and long-term performance planning.

According to the federation's official communication, the project -- titled Genomics for Elite Sports Integrated System -- is aimed at "optimising athlete performance, health, recovery and injury prevention through the integration of genomics into high-performance sport".

The circular further notes that the initiative has been developed in collaboration with a genomics firm and is part of AFI's broader push towards "modern, evidence-based, and ethical scientific practices" in pursuit of sustained international success.

AFI spokesperson and World Athletics vice-president Adille Sumariwalla reinforced this position, stating that much of the existing genetic research is based on Western populations and India needs its own dataset to better understand its athletes.

Yet, for all its ambition, the rollout has raised more questions than answers.

Athletes, already navigating a complex regulatory environment, have found themselves uncertain about what the testing entails and how the data will be used or misused.

"The circular came at a time when all women athletes are supposed to undergo SRY Gene Test," a top athlete said on condition of anonymity. "It almost feels like a way to control athletes and this DNA testing feels no different at this point with not much clarity given about it. I just hope athletes will have the option to say no without scrutiny."

The scepticism among athletes is understandable as the idea challenges traditional training methods and long-held beliefs around performance and injury management. Crucially, the lack of a clear transition into mainstream practice has meant that even those somewhat familiar with the concept remain unconvinced of its immediate value.

Part of the confusion lies in what DNA testing for athletes actually involves.

Unlike biomechanics or physiological testing -- which provide immediate, measurable outputs -- genetic testing works on probabilities. It attempts to identify markers linked to traits such as muscle composition, collagen strength, and inflammation response, all of which can influence injury risk or recovery patterns.

Dr Tvisha Parikh, consultant sports medicine physician at Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital, explains the premise.

"There are certain physical attributes which help in sports performance, and when genetic testing is done, patterns emerge," said Dr Parikh. "For instance, sprinters may share certain genes, while endurance athletes may have others. So if we identify these markers, it can guide training decisions."

However, Dr Parikh, who also served as deputy chief medical officer for India at the Paris 2024 Olympics, cautions against overestimating its current utility.

"It is definitely not fully established, it is developing. We already have other forms of testing that are quite useful. Genetics is just one part of the larger picture," she said.

She illustrates this with an example from conventional sports science where she worked with India's new marathon national record holder Sawan Barwal, whose endurance to run the marathon was identified after a VO2 max test, which measures the maximum amount of oxygen your body can utilise during intense exercise.

"We tested an athlete's VO2 max and found it to be extremely high, which suggested he was better suited for endurance events rather than shorter distances. That shift came from performance testing as we had previous data to compare it with. Similarly, with any test, including genetic testing, someone must know how to interpret and use the results. Otherwise, it has limited value," she said.

That distinction is critical as DNA testing does not determine success but merely provides an additional layer of information.

Globally, the commercialisation of genetic testing has added another dimension to the debate. Several laboratories now offer athletes detailed genetic profiling, and there has been growing uptake in the west. Former high jump world champion Blanka Vlasic acknowledged this shift.

"Towards the final phase of my career, I saw athletes indulging in sports science, and it's prevalent nowadays," said the Croat. "If it came around my time, when I struggled with injuries, I would have loved to use it. Perhaps I would have had a more successful career."

Yet, while sports science in its broader sense has become indispensable, DNA testing still sits at the margins. Unlike established tools such as biomechanics and workload monitoring, genetic profiling has yet to deliver consistent, real-world outcomes that would justify widespread adoption.

That is partly because science itself is still evolving. It also reflects in AFI's cautious rollout as the federation has, for now, limited the programme to top athletes, with no clear roadmap yet on whether it will scale into a broader system.

In that sense, Project GENESIS appears less like a fully-formed framework and more like an early-stage step whose long-term direction is still taking shape. The circular, however, emphasises this as a step towards integrating genomics into a broader high-performance framework.

That suggests the implications are long-term as genetic data becomes meaningful only when accumulated over years and across large populations. Until then, its application may remain limited.

Dr Ashok Ahuja, former head of sports science and medicine at NIS Patiala, believes the real value of such initiatives will emerge when combined with technology.

"This kind of data will have to be processed through artificial intelligence," Dr Ahuja said. "We are already using AI for injury prevention by analysing movements such as kinetics, kinematics, angles... When you add genetic data to that, it becomes a massive database that cannot be handled manually."

He also pointed at the growing importance of epigenetics: the interaction between genes and environment.

"It is not just about what you are born with. Environmental factors, training conditions, even early development can influence how genes behave. So genetics alone cannot explain everything," he said.

"That again points at the fact that all this is still a developing field. Over time, as more data is collected, we will be able to see whether injury incidence reduces. That is when its real value will be understood," he said.

Prima facie, Project GENESIS represents both an opportunity and a challenge. The opportunity is building a scientific foundation tailored to its athletes and the challenge would be in execution while ensuring transparency, safeguarding athlete privacy and clearly communicating the purpose of the initiative. Because in the absence of clarity, even the most advanced science can breed mistrust.

Amit stars in Bharath SU win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amit scored 23 points while Hitesh added another 15 as Bharath SU thrashed Pattabhi BC 67-26 in the State Sub-junior (U-13) Basketball Championship for boys and girls for the BS Narayan Memorial Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results: Boys: Bharath SU: 67 (Amit 23, Hitesh 15) bt Pattabhi BC: 26 (Druvik 5). HT: 41-14; Young Orions: 50 (Avyukth 18) bt Mandya A: 34 (Ishtartha 16). HT: 31-13; MCHS: 50 (Avanish 13, Divit 13) bt Bangalore Sporting: 45 (Aryan 16, Jeshwan 13). HT: 26-12; Mysuru A: 66 (Kushal 14) bt Hebbal: 9 (Pranav 2). HT: 39-6; YNBC: 70 (Svar Nagarjuna 15) bt Southern Blues: 13 (Reyansh 6). HT: 37-7; Beagles BC: 67 (Dishanth 8, Nikil 8) bt Koramangala: 48 (Takshin 23). HT: 22-21; Rajmahal BC: 31 (Tanush 10) bt Orions BC: 25 (Vithin 11). HT: 12-12; Mounts BC: 50 (Thimmaiah 17) bt Nettakallappa: 17 (Lishanth 7). HT: 11-10; Hassan: 29 (Manjunath 10) bt Davanagere: 28 (Yash 11). HT: 7-14; Dharwad A: 42 (Nagaraj 12) bt Chamarajanagar: 10 (Samrudh 4). HT: 19-5; Kalaburgi: 18 (Yadunandhan 10) bt Dharwad: 4. HT 18-4; Dhavangere 26 (Prathamshi 8) Beat Shivamogga 14 (Shree Arya 8). HT 20-08; Lakshyan: 10 bt Ramanagar: 9. HT 4-5. B-Vanguards: 63 (Neil 16, Chayank 14, Takshak 11) bt HBR BC: 38. HT 39-26. MNK RAO: 40 (Utkarsh 14) bt Hoskote BC: 13 (Ayush 5). HT: 24-2.

Girls: MCHS: 52 (Kanira 12, Swarali 10) bt YNBC: 8 (Bhavyashri 5). HT 29-08. Mandya: 43 (Tejaseini 10) bt DRDO: 7 (Akanksha 4). HT 28-3; Beagles BC: 57 (Ayra 23 Lochama 13) bt MNK Rao: 14 (Shreshta 4). HT: 28-11. Mounts BC: 61 (Kenisha 14) bt Devanga: 18 (Yuktha 13). HT 32-11. Young Orions: 31 (Anushka 13) bt S-Blues: 7. HT: 22-1; Viveks SC: 59 (Pahal 12) bt Hoskote BC: 13 (Manasvini 10). HT: 30-05; Halasuru 20 (Kashvi 09) Beat Ramanagar 10 (Tanu 08) HT 11-04; Mysore Dist A: 38 (Kushi 9) bt Chamarajanagar: 4. HT: 17-4; Dharwad A: 16 (Aaradhya 5) bt Kolar: 13 (Poojitha 4). HT 6-5; Mysore Dist B: 31 (Bindushree 9) bt Kolar: 6 (Sanvi 6). HT: 18-2; PPC: 34 (Aniksha 8) bt Appaiah: 7. HT: 26-7; B-Vanguards: 47 (Aarushi 11) bt Pattabhi: 2. HT: 31-01.

TCS WORLD 10K RUN

Kibet, Chelangat lead the charge

Cautious optimism over record timings due to the rising temperature

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Elite international athletes (from left) Rodrigue Kwizera, Gemechu Dida, Harbert Kibet, Fentaye Belayneh, Sarah Chelangat and Brenda Jepchirchir strike a pose in front of the Vidhana Soudha ahead of TCS World 10K.

With two-time Olympic gold medallist Joshua Cheptegei not returning to defend his men's elite title, the 18th edition of TCS World 10K in Bengaluru may, at first glance, seem to miss a bit of its usual star power.

However, the excitement is very much intact, largely because at least four of the elite runners in the field are well within striking distance of the meet record. With multiple athletes already clocking sub-28 timings this season, the pace at the front is expected to be relentless. The current course record of 27:38, set by Nicholas Kipkorir Kimeli in 2022, could genuinely come under threat if conditions play along.

That being said, Bengaluru's rising morning heat adds an interesting twist. Most of these African runners train in relatively cooler conditions, typically around 18-19 degrees Celsius, and adjusting to temperatures that could climb to 25-26 degrees by race end will be a factor. Expect a slightly cautious start before things potentially open up later in the race.

Leading the charge is Uganda's young sensation Harbert Kibet, who clocked a blistering personal best of 26:39 in 10K Castellon, Spain, earlier this year and currently sits atop the road runners in the 10K distance.

Close on his heels is Burundi's Rodrigue Kwizera, who comes in with a national record of 26:54 and strong momentum after his Prague performance. Ethiopia's Gemechu Dida is another name to watch as his recent half-marathon outing suggests he could push closer to his personal best if he finds rhythm early.

The women's race, meanwhile, is shaping up to be just as gripping as defending champion Sarah Chelangat returns looking to reassert her authority, but she won't have it easy.

Kenya's Brenda Jepchirchir, in red-hot form this season, and Ethiopia's Fantaye Belanyeh, who brings solid half-marathon credentials, are both capable of making this a tight contest, with the course record of 30:35 also quietly in sight.

Domestic field

Meanwhile, the domestic field promises competition as the course record holders and defending champions Abhishek Pal and Sanjivani Jadhav are back to defend their titles.

With the Asian Games lined up later in the year, a happy hunting ground for Indian athletes, some of the best domestic names have showed up for the event. Partly because they also trained nearby at SAI Bengaluru and Kunoor.

Two-time champion Abhishek, who set the track record last year, will see a threat to his throne from 'Marathon medic' Karthik Kerkara, who sent shockwaves around the Indian circuit earlier this season. Also in the run are Karnataka runner Shailesh Kushwaha, who dominated the Indian Athletics Series 3 in Delhi earlier this year, and his training partner Harmanjot Singh.

Meanwhile, 2017 Asian Championships medallist Sanjivani, who has failed to impress at the international level in a long time, will be facing challenges from Lili Das and 3000m steeplechaser Preeti Lamba, who prepares for the season with the 10k flat.

Barca on the verge of coronation

GETAFE (SPAIN), AFP

Fermin Lopez

Fermin Lopez and Marcus Rashford's goals took Barcelona to the brink of the La Liga title with a 2-0 win at Getafe on Saturday.

The defending champions moved 11 points clear of second place Real Madrid, who drew at Real Betis on Friday to dent their hopes of finishing the season with a trophy.

Hansi Flick's side can win their second consecutive Spanish title if they overcome Osasuna next weekend and Real Madrid fail to beat Espanyol.

Dani Olmo made the first with a neat dribble, speeding into Getafe territory, but pulled his shot wide of the far post.

Eventually the hosts made the breakthrough just before half-time when Pedri played in Lopez.

Wearing a protective mask after hurting his face in a collision with Atletico Madrid goalkeeper Juan Musso during Barcelona's Champions League quarterfinal elimination last week, Lopez stayed calm to slot home.

The midfielder imitated Yamal's usual "304" celebration in tribute to the injured teenage star.

Results: Alaves: 2 (Martinez 56th, 69th) bt Mallorca: 1 (Virgili 18th); Getafe: 0 lt to Barcelona: 2 (Lopez 45+1, Rashford 74th). On Friday: Real Betis: 1 (Bellerin 90+4) drew with Real Madrid: 1 (Vinicius 17th)

West Ham survive

West Ham scored a late winner on Saturday to stay two points clear of Tottenham in the battle to avoid Premier League relegation on a day of breathless drama.

Results: Fulham: 1 (Sessegnon 43rd) bt Aston Villa: 0; Liverpool: 3 (Isak 35th, Robertson 40th, Wirtz 90+6) bt Crystal Palace: 1 (Munoz 71st); West Ham: 2 (Soucek 51st, Wilson 90+2) bt Everton: 1 (Dewsbury-Hall 88th); Wolves: 0 lt to Tottenham: 1 (Palhinha 82nd).

Hurdler Nupura opens Karnataka's medal tally

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Nupura Holla bagged a bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles with a 14.22-second effort on the second day of the 24th National Junior U-20 Federation Athletics Competition in Tumakuru on Saturday.

Tamil Nadu's Yamini Karthikeya crossed the finish line first with a time of 13.79 seconds.

Results: (Only winners and Karnataka):
Men: 110m hurdles: Kiran K (Ker, 13.75 seconds).
400m: Mohammed Ashfaq (Ker, 46.05s).
1500m run: Vansh Kumar Sharawa (UP, 3:52.29).
Long Jump: Shahnavaz Khan (UP, 8.23m).
Shot Put: Sai Kiran A (NCOE Patiala, 18.65m).
Hammer Throw: Ashuvendra Pratap Sin (UP, 67.87m).
Pole Vault: Kavinraja (TN, 5.12m).
Decathlon: Upkar (Raj, 7039 points).
5000m race walk: Nitin Gupta (UP, 18:54.37s).

Women: 100m hurdles: Yamini Karthikeyan (TN, 13.79s), 1; Nupura Holla (Kar, 14.22s).
400m: Neeru Pahtak (NCOE Thiruvananthapuram, 54.31s).
1500m: Radha Yadav (MP, 4:32.64s).
Long Jump: Munmun Chetia (Asm, 6.03m)
Shot Put: Anupriya VS (Ker, 14.35m).
5000m race walk: Ranjana Yadav (MP, 14.35m).

Nupura Holla

Kothari survives Chulho scare

BENGALURU, DHNS: Reigning champion Sourav Kothari survived a scare in his opening match of the IBSF World Billiards Championship that got underway in Carlow, Ireland, on Saturday.

The Indian ace overcame South Korea's Hwang Chulho 305-238 after being down by over 120-odd points with about 30 minutes to go. Kothari, also the reigning National champion, came up with a crucial break of 111 to put it past the tricky Korean.

The 41-year-old will look to make amends in his next match against France's Akhilesh Mohan.

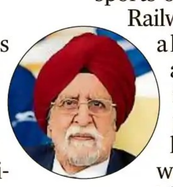
There were no hiccups for most of the other Indian contenders on the opening day. Former champion Pankaj Advani's runaway 1003-54 win over Michael Crook of Isle of Man was the highlight of the day.

Advani floored his rival with a barrage of breaks, runs of 198, 297 and 117 flowed from his cue. The 40-year-old Bengalurean reduced his senior opponent to a mere spectator in the 90-minute affair.

Oly medallist Gurbax no more

CHANDIGARH, PTI: Olympic hockey medallist Gurbax Singh Grewal **(in pic)** has died following a heart attack in Zirakpur near here.

He was 84.



Grewal, who was part of the Indian team that secured a bronze medal at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, died on Friday.

In a rare distinction, he represented India at the same Olympics alongside his brother Balbir Singh Grewal, marking one of the few instances of siblings featuring together in the national hockey side at the Games.

Beyond his playing career, Grewal served as a senior sports officer with Western Railways, where he played a key role in identifying and inducting talent, including several players from Rajasthan, into the Railways hockey setup.

After retiring from service in Mumbai, he remained actively involved in the sport's administration, serving as honorary secretary of the Mumbai Hockey Association.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"We were happy to play here (Chinnaswamy Stadium), it's a special place to play cricket. It's been brilliant to play at home and win four games. Hopefully we'll be able to come back later in the season

VIRAT KOHLI, RCB PLAYER

Vanshika Chaudhary (left) and Chirag Sharma with their 10m air pistol mixed team gold medals.

Vanshika, Chirag win gold as Indian shooters dominate

CAIRO, PTI: Vanshika Chaudhary and Chirag Sharma won the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Saturday, taking India's gold tally to five.

With one more day of competitions left, India continued to lead the medal table with five gold, five silver and four bronze.

The duo shot 484.3 to shrug off the challenge of Aliaksandra Piatrova and Mikita Daubash (467.6) representing the Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN). The second Indian pair of Mohini Singh and Himanshu Rana tallied 407.4 to clinch bronze in the four-team final.

Vanshika and Chirag had earlier shot a combined 582 on Saturday morning at the Olympic International City Shooting range to top the 14-team qualifiers while Mohini and Himanshu finished third as well with a 568.

It was a second gold in the tournament for Vanshika having earlier won the individual women's 10m air pistol title. It was also a second medal for Chirag, who had earlier won bronze in the junior men's air pistol.

The trap men's and women's competitions also concluded on the day where India had one finalist each. Both Zuhair Khan and Bhavya Tripathi claimed the sixth qualifying spot in their respective qualifiers. While Zuhair shot 115, Bhavya recorded 108 after five rounds.

Bhavya then finished eighth in the junior women's trap final, where Italian Martina Montani won gold with a new junior world record score of 26 hits out of a possible 30.

Guru HC emerge champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Venkatesh T, Sandeep S and Aravind netted one goal apiece that was enough for Guru Hockey Club to blank Blue Star Hockey Club 3-0 and emerge as the champions of the KSHA 'A' Division Hockey League Championship here on Saturday.

Following Venkatesh's opening goal in the 14th minute, Sandeep S and Aravind found the back of the net in the 26th and 49th minutes, respectively, to comfortably carry their team past the finish line.

In the third-fourth place clash, Bombers Hockey Club defeated Bangalore United Hockey Club via penalty shootout.

Results: Final: Guru HC: 3 (Venkatesh T 14th, Sandeep S 26th, Aravind 49th) bt Blue Star HC: 0.
3rd-4th place: Bombers HC: 1 (Manoj 17th) bt Bangalore United HC: 1 (Harsha 38th) via shootout (4-3).
Special prizes: Best Goalkeeper: Sai Kumar (Guru HC). **Best Defender:** Karthick (Guru HC). **Best Midfielder:** Muthu Kumar (Bangalore United HC). **Best Attacker:** Karthick (Blue Star HC). **Player of the competition:** Md. Nayeem (Bombers HC).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Chennai Super Kings vs Gujarat Titans **(3:30 pm)**, Lucknow Super Giants vs Kolkata Knight Riders **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

La Liga: Deportivo Alaves vs Mallorca **(5:30 pm)**, Getafe vs Barcelona **(7:45 pm)**, Valencia vs Girona **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: SC Delhi vs Mohammedan SC **(5 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

BADMINTON

Thomas & Uber Cup: Group Stage **(3:30 pm & 10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2, JioHotstar.**

Punjab Kings roar in record chase

KL Rahul's 152 not out goes in vain for Delhi Capitals

NEW DELHI, PTI

Punjab Kings rewrote the T20 record books with a breathtaking batting blitz, pulling off the highest-ever successful chase in the format's history by overhauling a daunting 265-run target to outgun Delhi Capitals by six wickets in an IPL run-fest here on Saturday.

KL Rahul blended grace with power to script a stroke-filled 152, the third-highest individual IPL score, while Nitish Rana (91) batted with authority as the duo powered hosts Delhi Capitals to a mammoth 264 for 2 after opting to bat first.

Chasing the target, Punjab's dynamic opening pair of Prabhsimran Singh (76) and Priyansh Arya (73) came out all guns blazing, adding 126 runs in just 42 balls to lay a formidable foundation for the chase and set the tone for their sixth win of the season.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer, who was dropped by Karun Nair twice in the span of three balls, then scored an unbeaten 71 off 36 deliveries to take PBKS over the line with as many as seven balls to spare..

Incidentally, the previous highest successful run chase in T20 as well as IPL history also belongs to PBKS when they chased down 262 against the Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024.

They remain unbeaten this season and on top of the points table with 13 points from seven games.

In a match where 49 boundaries and 33 sixes were hit, with only six wickets falling, the bowlers were arguably the biggest losers. The visitors showed remarkable composure and intent, building on their previous outing where they had scored the previous highest total of the season.

Local lad Priyansh and Prabhsimran consistently sent the ball to and over the fence. The latter hit six fours against Mukesh Kumar in the sixth over. There were anxious moments during the chase when Delhi Capitals pacer Lungi Ngidi was hit the back of the head on the ground while attempting a catch off Arya's bat.

The South African had to be stretchered off the field after a delay of over 15 minutes, momentarily halting proceedings. Both sides were also guilty of sloppy fielding, with dropped catches and misfields adding to their woes.

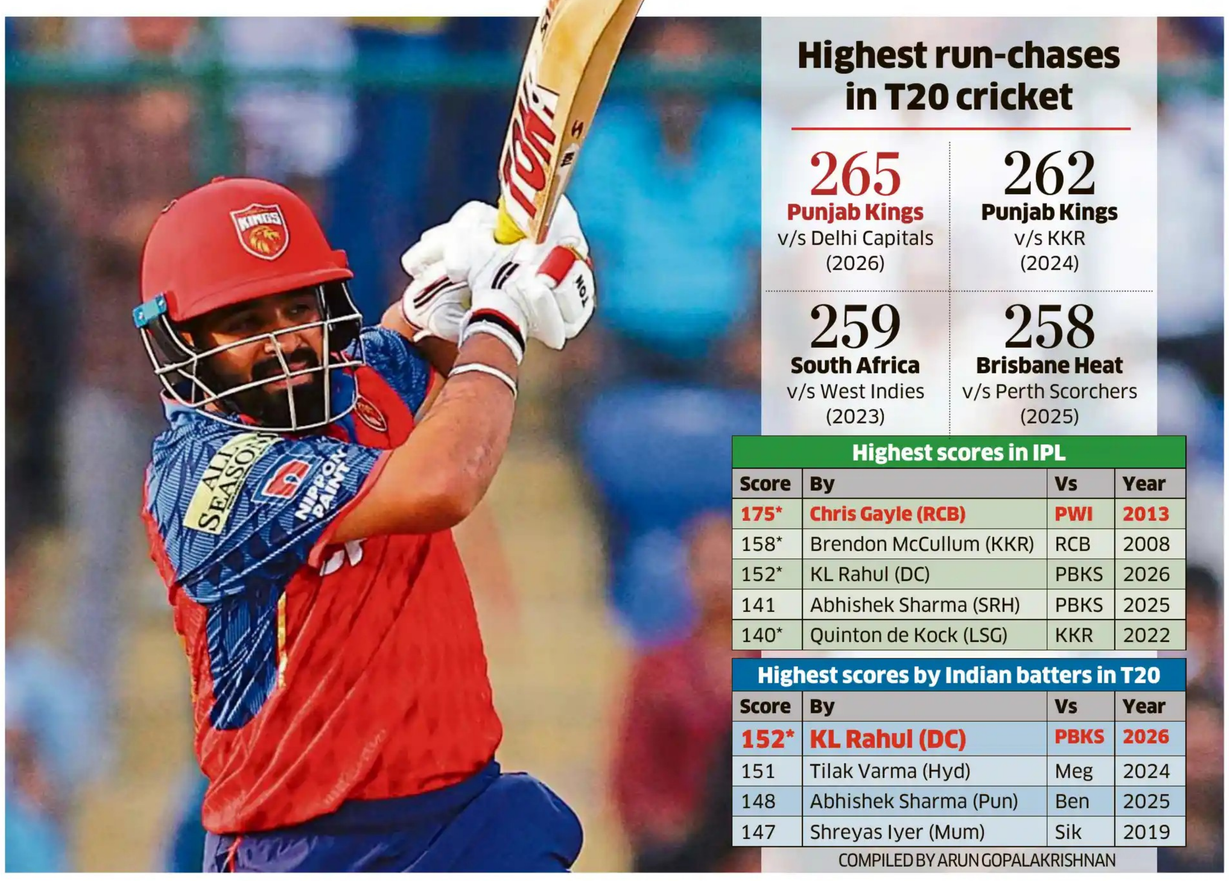
Earlier, setting a target for the first time this season, the Capitals came out with clear intent, attacking anything in their arc from the outset. The home team hit a total of 29 fours and 13 sixes to put on board the highest total of the 2026 IPL season.

Striking at over 200 throughout the 20 overs, Rahul (152 off 67 balls) unfurled a range of classical strokes all around the ground, seamlessly combining timing with aggression to put up the highest-score ever by an Indian in the IPL.

With the knock, he also became only the third player to go beyond 150-run mark after Chris Gayle (175) and Brendon McCullum (158). Dropped twice, Rahul made full use of the reprieve, forging a 220-run stand with local boy Rana for the second wicket. It was second biggest stand in IPL history behind 229 set by Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers. Rana looked completely at ease on his home ground. His 44-ball knock, laced with 11 fours and 4 sixes, provided the perfect foil as the duo kept the scoreboard ticking at a brisk pace.

Rahul set the tone early, striking back-to-back boundaries in the second over before Pathum Nissanka chipped in with a crisp four.

Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul celebrates after scoring a century against Punjab Kings on Saturday. PTI



Punjab Kings' Prabhsimran Singh starred in the record run-chase against Delhi Capitals with a scorching 26-ball 76 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Highest run-chases in T20 cricket

265 Punjab Kings v/s Delhi Capitals (2026)	**262** Punjab Kings v/s KKR (2024)
259 South Africa v/s West Indies (2023)	**258** Brisbane Heat v/s Perth Scorchers (2025)

Highest scores in IPL

Score	By	Vs	Year
175*	Chris Gayle (RCB)	PWI	2013
158*	Brendon McCullum (KKR)	RCB	2008
152*	KL Rahul (DC)	PBKS	2026
141	Abhishek Sharma (SRH)	PBKS	2025
140*	Quinton de Kock (LSG)	KKR	2022

Highest scores by Indian batters in T20

Score	By	Vs	Year
152*	KL Rahul (DC)	PBKS	2026
151	Tilak Varma (Hyd)	Meg	2024
148	Abhishek Sharma (Pun)	Ben	2025
147	Shreyas Iyer (Mum)	Sik	2019

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS: Pathum Nissanka c Prabhsimran b Arshdeep 11, KL Rahul (not out) 152, Nitish Rana c Iyer b Bartlett 91, David Miller (not out) 3. Extras: (NB-1, W-6) 7. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, 20 overs) 264.**
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-248.
Bowling: Arshdeep Singh 4-0-49-1, Xavier Bartlett 4-0-69-1, Marco Jansen 4-0-45-0, Vijaykumar Vyshak 3-0-48-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-42-0, Marcus Stoinis 1-0-11-0.
PUNJAB KINGS: Priyansh Arya c Rizvi b Axar 43, Prabhsimran Singh lbw Kuldeep 76, Cooper Connolly b Kuldeep 17, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 71, Nehal Wadhera c sub b Nigam 25, Shashank Singh (not out) 19. Extras (LB-1, NB-1, W-12) 14. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 18.5 overs) 265**
Fall of wickets: 1-126, 2-132, 3-145, 4-201. **Bowling:** Auqib Nabi 2-0-41-0, Mukesh Kumar 3-0-55-0, Axar Patel 4-0-44-1, T Natarajan 3.5-0-54-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-46-2, Vipraj Nigam 2-0-24-1.
Result: PBKS won by 6 wkts
PoM: KL Rahul

Ngidi stable after being taken to hospital

NEW DELHI, PTI: Delhi Capitals pacer Lungi Ngidi is "stable" and will be "discharged shortly" from a local hospital where he underwent medical examination after he hurt himself during his side's IPL match against Punjab Kings here on Saturday.

The South African was taken off the ground in an ambulance after he nastily banged his head into the ground while attempting a catch. He was rushed to Max Hospital, Pusa Road, here for medical examination.

The IPL said that the 30-year-old right-arm pacer complained of headache and neck pain, but he is currently "stable".

"Lungi Ngidi of Delhi Capitals hit his head on the ground while attempting to take a catch during his team's match against Punjab Kings. He was shifted to the hospital in an ambulance as he complained of a headache and neck pain," IPL said on X.

"Ngidi is stable and is due to be discharged shortly from the hospital. Vipraj Nigam is on the field as a concussion substitute," it added.

Ngidi was trying to pouch a mishit from Punjab opener Priyansh Arya off Axar Patel on the third ball of the second over, but he grossly misjudged the travel path of the ball.

Lungi Ngidi misjudged a catch and hit the back of his head onto the ground. PTI

Sunrisers eclipse Sooryavanshi ton

JAIPUR, PTI

Teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's thrill-a-second 103, the third fastest IPL hundred off 36 balls, was eclipsed by a collective batting effort by Sunrisers Hyderabad as the visitors etched a commanding five-wicket win here on Saturday.

Ishan Kishan smacked a 31-ball 74 while Abhishek Sharma rode on a couple of lifelines to make 57 off 29 balls to lead SRH's charge as they scaled down a 229-run target with nine balls to spare.

It, in fact, was the fourth-highest run chase ever in the IPL, close on the heels of a record 265-run chase mounted by Punjab Kings against Delhi Capitals earlier in the day at New Delhi.

Heinrich Klaasen (29) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (36) put on 53 runs for the fourth wicket to finish the job.

The Royals, despite having a par total on board, deployed as many as eight bowling options but poor fielding let their bowlers down.

Apart from two dropped chances to get rid of Abhishek early, the Royals also failed to apply pressure when Brijesh Sharma spilled Reddy off Jofra Archer (2/34) on 14. It was an eventful first over in which Dhruv Jurel spilt a regulation chance off Archer to give Travis Head (6) an early life. The Australian then lofted one for a six but the English pacer had the last laugh, getting Head caught behind.

Archer then surprised Kishan with a 145.4 kmph snorter which took an edge and flew off the helmet for a four, but the SRH batter recovered to crack three fours off Archer.

Abhishek had to thank RR fielders for erring twice on regulation chances. On the first occasion, Shimron Hetmyer moved away from third man when Abhishek hit one off Nandre Burger straight to him. The second time, a low full toss from Tushar Deshpande had the India opener slicing it straight to Ravindra Jadeja at backward point where he split a sitter.

Despite the hiccups, Abhishek and Kishan went about their job with ease as none of the bowling changes could prevent their charge. They put on 132 for the second wicket from only 55 balls to place their team on track for a comfortable win.

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Sooryavanshi celebrates after scoring a century against Sunrisers Hyderabad that eventually went in vain on Saturday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Klaasen b Malinga 10, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi lbw Hussain 103, Dhruv Jurel c Verma b Nitish 51, Riyan Parag b Cummins 7, Donovan Ferreira c Klaasen b Malinga 33, Shimron Hetmyer c Nitish b Hinge 11, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 4, Jofra Archer (not out) 2. Extras (LB-1, W-6) 7. **TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 20 overs) 228.**
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-152, 3-170, 4-191, 5-214, 6-225.
Bowling: Praful Hinge 4-0-49-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-27-1, Eshan Malinga 4-0-38-2, Sakib Hussain 4-0-62-1, Shivang Kumar 2-0-31-0, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-0-20-1.
SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Travis Head c Jurel b Archer 6, Abhishek Sharma c Archer b Ferreira 57, Ishan Kishan c Ferreira b Archer 74, Heinrich Klaasen c Bishnoi b Brijesh 29, Nitish Kumar Reddy lbw Brijesh 36, Salil Arora (not out) 8, Aniket Verma (not out) 1. Extras (LB-5, W-13) 18. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 18.3 overs) 229.**
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-139, 3-166, 4-219, 5-220.
Bowling: Jofra Archer 4-0-34-2, Nandre Burger 3.3-0-50-0, Tushar Deshpande 3-0-43-0, Brijesh Sharma 4-0-44-2, Riyan Parag 1-0-12-0, Donovan Ferreira 1-0-14-1, Ravi Bishnoi 1-0-16-0, Ravindra Jadeja 1-0-11-0.
Result: SRH won by 5 wkts
PoM: Ishan Kishan

KKR, LSG fight to stay alive

LIVE 7:30 PM

LUCKNOW, PTI: The adage that a captain is only as good as his team holds a grim truth for Rishabh Pant and Ajinkya Rahane. As Lucknow Super Giants and Kolkata Knight Riders prepare to meet this Sunday in the IPL, both find their leadership under fire, mirroring the fading fortunes of their respective franchises.

KKR's bold call to persist with Rahane at the helm after a woeful IPL 2025 campaign was debated even before the tournament began. The concerns have only deepened as results failed to follow. It took them seven matches to register their first win -- a narrow escape powered by individual brilliance from Rinku Singh rather than a collective resurgence.

It's true that Rahane has shown a transformative approach with flashes of positive intent -- a 67 off 40 against Mumbai Indians and a brisk 41 off 24 against LSG.

But, in a format on the fast lane, those starts have rarely translated into match-shaping contributions. Rahane hasn't been helped by a depleted pace attack and a quiet start from spin spearhead Varun Chakravarthy.

Yet, along with head coach Abhishek Nayar, who had an equally uninspiring campaign with UP Warriorz at this seasons' WPL, Rahane has been found wanting in key areas - team selection and resource utilisation.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	7	6	0	1	13	1.333
Royal Challengers	7	5	2	0	10	1.101
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	0	10	0.815
Rajasthan Royals	8	5	3	0	10	0.602
Chennai Super Kings	7	3	4	0	6	0.118
Delhi Capitals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.184
Gujarat Titans	7	3	4	0	6	-0.790
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	7	2	5	0	4	-1.277
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	1	5	1	3	-0.879

Resurgent CSK look to tick off struggling GT

CHENNAI, PTI: Riding a resurgent run, Chennai Super Kings will look to consolidate their position in the top half, while Gujarat Titans aim to arrest a slide when the two sides face off in a crucial mid-season IPL clash here on Sunday.

After a sluggish start, CSK have turned things around, winning three of their last four matches, including a commanding 103-run victory over Mumbai Indians that was powered by Sanju Samson's second century of the season.

LIVE 3:30 PM

Led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, CSK are placed just outside the top four with six points and will be keen to avoid further slip-ups as they chase a playoff berth.

At the moment, things are looking up for CSK. Samson's brilliance with the bat, complemented by a clinical bowling effort led by Akeal Hosein, scripted their emphatic win over Mumbai.

Notably, they achieved it without talisman MS Dhoni (calf injury) and local talent Ayush Mhatre (hamstring), who has contributed 201 runs this season.

However, a few concerns remain. While the top order has delivered consistently, the middle order has struggled to show intent and build partnerships. Against Sunrisers Hyderabad, CSK should have comfortably chased down 130 from 90 balls with eight wickets in hand, but a middle-order collapse derailed the effort.

Gaikwad himself is enduring a lean run, much like Riyan Parag for Rajasthan Royals, while the likes of Sarfaraz Khan, Shivam Dube and Dewald Brevis have failed to convert starts into substantial scores.

CSK pacer Anshul Kamboj will be eyeing a strong show against GT. REUTERS

Padikkal: From domestic dominance to IPL impact

Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter pleased with his six-hitting abilities

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Pursuit of excellence, like everything else in life, is a core principle in a sportsperson's career. Even by that standard, Devdutt Padikkal seems to be operating on another level. It's as though he is enjoying a Venusian phase.

After another highly successful domestic season, where he piled up runs across formats (542 at an average of 60.33 in the Ranji Trophy, 725 at 90.62 in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, and 309 at 60.80 in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy), the left-hander has carried that golden run into the Indian Premier League.

His 27-ball 55 against Gujarat Titans on Friday night at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium was a further demonstration of his evolution as a batter that has brought him back into conversation for a place in the Indian team in Tests and T20Is. On a day when Titans' opener and fellow left-hander Sai Sudharsan, his direct rival for the No. 3 slot in the Indian Test side, struck a sublime 100, Padikkal won the bragging rights for the impact he had on the outcome of the match. On volume, Player of the Match Virat Kohli's 81 might have carried more weight, but Padikkal's innings was a notch better for its sheer quality.

What particularly stood out most was the half a dozen sixes he produced, combining power with poise and aggression with elegance. Coming into Friday's match, he had struck 17 fours and seven sixes in six matches. After this, the count of fours increased to 19 while the sixes nearly doubled to 13.

"The biggest plus for me is the number of sixes I hit," said Padikkal after the match. "I don't know if I hit five or six, and that's not something that is very common for me, at least personally, when I bat. I am more of a boundary (four) hitter. So the fact that I was able to hit six sixes was quite special. So yeah, probably so far in the IPL this was my best (innings)."

This transformation didn't happen overnight. There were technical tweaks which were not easy but he was determined to work hard. During the process, he had to ensure his belief remained unaffected.

"There are a few technical changes that I've made over the last couple of years, you have to just commit to those changes. Initially, it was difficult because obviously, it's a lot of change to my usual routines and process, but at the end of the day, now I'm getting those results," Padikkal told the broadcaster.

"... But at the end of the day, the self-belief and confidence needs to remain the same. That's what I'm trying to do as much as possible and not change my mentality too much. Yes, definitely, I've made a few adjustments coming into the IPL. Apart from that, I've just tried to keep things simple and stay confident," he added during his post-match press-do.

Taking over the captaincy of Karnataka senior team from Mayank Agarwal, Padikkal said, has given him a different perspective to his game. The responsibility, in a way, has helped him take ownership of situations.

"I think being a captain has made me think a lot more about how a bowler thinks, how captains are thinking on the field, what they might look to do. And I think that kind of thought process has definitely helped me find parts of my game and refine it a lot more. It gives me a little bit more of an understanding as to the situation that I am in and how I need to respond. So yeah, I guess being the captain of Karnataka has definitely contributed in a positive way."

His three half-centuries so far in this IPL -- vs SRH (61 off 26), vs CSK (50 off 29) and vs GT (55 off 27) -- are ample proof of his confidence to take control of the proceedings.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Devdutt Padikkal says keeping things simple and staying confident has contributed to his success in the IPL so far. PTI

Diksha slips as 3 Indians make cut

CAPE TOWN, PTI: Indian golfer Diksha Dagar gave away two vital shots towards the end and dropped to Tied-16th at the end of the second round at the Investec SA Women's Open here.

She shot 1-under 72 and was now 6-under for 36 holes. Diksha dropped five places after being T-11 on the first day when she shot 68.

Pranavi Urs (73) was placed T-43rd while Avani Prashanth (71) made the cut.

Bhullar stays in top-5

Gaganjeet Bhullar shot one-over 72 in the third round but remained inside the top-5 at the Singapore Open.

Enrica fancied for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

SM Abbas-trained Enrica, to be ridden by Parvesh, is favoured to win the DRC Managing Committee Juvenile Sprinters Cup, the feature event of the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 3:30 pm.

1.The Summer Majesty Plate 1000M: Dashing Harry 1; Master Bomber 2; Miss Boost 3.
2.The Sunlight Sprint Plate (Div-I) 1000M: Missey Boy 1; Properly Posh 2; She's A Beauty 3.
3.The Sunlight Sprint Plate (Div-II) 1000M: First Class 1; Lemon Pie 2; Lady Hi Tman 3.
4.The Sunny Sky Plate 1600M: Mr Christopher 1; Trusted Friend 2; Ashwa Gajraj 3.
5.The DRC Managing Committee Juvenile Sprinters Cup 1200M: Enrica 1; Scarlett Tempest 2; Stavya 3.
6.The Sun Star Plate 1200M: Insta Millionaire 1; Thanks Again 2; Ustaad Ji 3.
Day's Best: First Class.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **Treble:** 4, 5, 6.

FOOTBALL ISL

BFC fumble at home again

Munoz's men fail to grab their chances in goalless draw against Mumbai City

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Coach Pep Munoz's wait for his first Indian Super League victory was stretched to three matches as Bengaluru FC played out a goalless draw against direct rivals Mumbai City FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

On a day when club captain Sunil Chhetri, for that matter the entire team, managed no shot on target, BFC (at fourth with 16 points) are now four points off the top with three rounds to go while table-toppers Mohun Bagan have a match in hand. BFC, whose home record was questionable despite boisterous support, will now play all their remaining matches away.

The result doesn't augur well for Mumbai City FC too, who are also now three matches without a win and have dropped to third spot with 19 points.

The match, in fact, promised much more as BFC attacked from the kick off with BFC midfielder Sirojiddin Kuziev missing the bottom left corner of the net by inches following a quick counter attack.

BFC's Braian Sanchez (left) vies for possession with MCFC's Brandon Fernandes during their ISL game at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. ISL MEDIA

Mumbai's right-back Valpuia responded seconds later as he volleyed from 30-odd yards to test shot-stopper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

The half turned facile from thereon as both sides settled down into their formation with the intention to exert dominance on ball possession.

No real chance came up until the 39th minute when Ashique Kuruniyan kept a floating cross from the left for his team-mate Ryan Williams at the far post but the Aus-Indian managed to side net on the volley.

The next clear-cut chance came in the second half and at the 48th minute when Finnish midfielder Joni Kauko exuded his class by floating the ball over the BFC defence for a well-timed run of Lallinzuala Chhangte, who did rounded off Sandhu but couldn't keep his effort on the target.

Following the let-off, BFC were handed a double body blow as their key right-back Nikhil Poojary and forward Williams were subbed off due to injuries in separate incidents before the hour mark.

The fresh legs, however, brought fresh ideas too as substitutes Namgyal Bhutia and young winger Soham Varshneya coordinated well with Braian Sanchez to open up back-to-back chances from the right but none turned decisive.

The second half, however, was all about Ashique Kuruniyan and his defence-terrorising run from the left flank that troubled MCFC, who often looked helpless in front of his trickery. The in-form winger, however, couldn't bring the finesse to his game after doing all the hard work.

BFC defence did turn error prone towards the final phases of the match but MCFC attack was equally wasteful and failed to punish their rivals.

Harshad, Tanya crowned champs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Harshad Shadish and Tanya Hemanth held ground against seeds and came through in straight games to be crowned champions in the men's and women's singles categories respectively at the Yonex-Sunrise Vivek Karan Memorial Karnataka State Junior U-19 & Seniors Ranking Badminton tournament at the Karnataka Badminton Association here on Saturday.

Harshad scored an upset win against third seed Rudra Shahi with a 21-16, 21-15 scoreline in the men's final. Tanya, on the other hand, swatted aside fourth seed Hithaishree L Rajaiah 21-10, 21-11 to wear the women's crown.

Results (final, prefix denotes seedings):
Men: Singles: Harshad Shadish bt 3-Rudra Shahi 21-16, 21-15.
Doubles: 3-Raghu Mariswamy/ Rohith M bt Ashith Surya/ Vaibhaav 21-16, 21-15.
Women: Singles: Tanya Hemanth bt 4-Hithaishree L Rajaiah 21-10, 21-11.
Doubles: 3-Ashwini Bhat K/ Shikha Gautam bt Amrutha Pramuthesh/ Rashmi Ganesh 21-13, 27-29, 21-16.
Mixed doubles: 4-Kishal Ganapathy/ Neysa Cariappa bt Ganesh Vittalji/ Jahnavi Shetty 21-12, 21-10.
Under-19: Boys: Singles: 5-Kaushik Reddy Veeram Reddy bt Harshad Shadish 21-13, 21-19.
Doubles: 3-Amith Raj Natraj/ K Yadunandan Nischal S/ Yeshas M Reddy 21-19, 21-7.
Girls: Singles: 4-Disha Santosh bt Hithaishree L Rajaiah 21-18, 21-6.
Doubles: Nidhi Atmaram/ Selvasamruddhi Selvaprabhu bt 2-Sameeksha HN/ Tanika Mohan 25-23, 21-17.
Mixed doubles: Amith Raj Natraj/ Suhina Roy bt Eswar Sai Katam/ Deborah John 21-16, 21-14.

Winners at the Vivek Karan Memorial Karnataka State Junior U-19 & Seniors Ranking Badminton tournament in KBA on Saturday. STANDING (from left) Kishal Ganapathy, Neysa Cariappa, Tanya Hemanth, Harshad Shadish, Raghu Mariswamy, Rohith Mariswamy, Ashwini Bhat, Shikha Gautham. SITTING: Selvasamruddhi, Nidhi Athmaram, Disha Santhosh, Suhina Roy, Amith Raj Natraj, Yadunandan. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

BWF approves 3x15 scoring system

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Saturday approved the adoption of the 3×15 scoring system at its Annual General Meeting at Horsen, Denmark, with the proposal acquiring the required two-thirds majority of votes cast.

The 3×15 scoring system will come into effect on January 4, 2027.

BWF President Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul said the decision marked an important milestone for the future of badminton.

"We are building a sport that speaks to the next generation, while continuing to invest in the long-term future of our players," Leeswadtrakul said.

"The 3×15 scoring system is intended to deliver more exciting and competitive badminton, improved scheduling, more consistent match durations, and potential benefits for player welfare and recovery. By bringing high-pressure moments earlier and creating tighter scores and more dramatic finishes, the format aims to keep fans engaged from the first rally to the last."

Addressing concerns raised by some stakeholders, Leeswadtrakul emphasised that the essence of badminton would remain unchanged.

DH Classifieds

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers/ Professors

WANTED MATHEMATICS and PE TEACHER for High School. Clerk for PUC. 'DVS INSTITUTION', Magadi Main Road, Sunkadakatte. 9535305299.

VIDHYODAYA PUBLIC ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL
No 34, 31st Main Road, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru -96
WANTED TEACHERS
Head Mistress - MA / M Sc with B.Ed/M.Ed
Asst. Mistress - Math B.Sc with B.Ed
Asst. Mistress - Kannada MA with B.Ed
Asst. Mistress - Science B.Sc P.cm C.bz
Asst. Mistress - English /Social science /Hindi
Gmail: Vidhyodayapublicenglishschool@gmail.com
Phone No.: 9481476037, 8310456547

WANTED TEACHERS
MATHA'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ICSE
(Affiliated School Code KA470)
• ENGLISH • MATHEMATICS
• PHYSICS • CHEMISTRY
• PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS
• COMPUTER TEACHERS
• DATA ENTRY OPERATORS
Education : Any Degree with B.Ed. (Optional) (Relevant Experience)
Salary: Primary -15000 -25000/- High School - 25000-45000/-
WALK IN INTERVIEW
Monday to Saturday (10am to 1pm)
11 K.M. Hosur Main Road, Garuvebhavipalya, Kudlu Gate Metro Station Bengaluru-68.
Contact : 94498 14917, 82772 58609 82772 57669, 96068 29599

SRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL AIDED/UNAIDED KANNADA/ENGLISH MEDIUM
No.19/01, 1st Cross, Cholurpalya, Magadi Road, Bengaluru – 560023.
WANTED
Trained Science (PCMB) and Social Science Teacher
Contact Personally between : 10-00 a.m. to 01-00 p.m.
Or Mobile Number : 9449976761

HOLY ANGEL'S High School, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560104. Phone: 23404465/23202042 holyangels.highschoolrpclayout@gmail.com Requires Experienced Trained Teachers for the Academic year 2026-27 for Higher Primary & High School Ist Language English, Mathematics, Science, SocialScience & Hindi. STATE & ICSE. Qualification: B.A./B.Sc., B.Ed/ M.A./M.Sc, M.Ed. Only English Medium Candidates need to apply.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCED Female Academic Supervisor having 3- 5 years experience, also Primary and High school teachers with B.A., M.A./ B.Ed/ B.Sc., M.Sc./ B.Ed. for Social Science & English. Walk in Interview. Contact: Max Muller Public School, Mahalakshmi Layout, B'lore-96. Mobile: 080-23376050/ 51. Email Id :maxmullerpublicschool.mlayout@gmail.com.

REQUIRED PROFESSOR, Anatomy, Medicine, Associate Professor Medicine, Anatomy, Surgery, Assistant Professor Repertory. Contact: Anuradha Homeopathic Medical College & Hospital, No.78/5, Srigandha Kaval, Near Hegganahalli Cross, Bengaluru – 91. Mob - 9731562744

CAMLIN HIGH SCHOOL, 6th 'C' Main, 4th Cross, Next to 7th Main Hampinagar Bus Stop, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560104, WANTED TRAINED TEACHER in M.Sc./ B.Sc., B.Ed (CBZ) for High School. WALK-IN Interview between 10.00a.m. to 12.30p.m. For immediate appointment. Contact: 23301363

HERITAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL Konanakunte requires HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS for `Physics Chemistry Biology PRIMARY TEACHERS for `all subjects `and KG-COORDINATOR WhatsApp/email resume`to: Mob:9901733776 heritagepublicschoolkk@gmail.com

MORE Classifieds IN SUPPLEMENT

Architects

REQUIRED ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS, SITE SUPERVISORS at Hunasamaranahalli near Yelahanka. Salary 20,000/-.Send resume: rkitex@gmail.com 7411639965

General

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT (Female) B.Com, Experience 2 years ESI, PF, Salary, Tally. AUTOCAD DESIGNER (Female) Coreldraw+ Solid works. Experience. 2 years for Industry in Peenya. 9972410541, 9845915484 infusilindia@infusil.in

WE-ARE- HIRING Male and Female, 10th, PUC, Degree, ITI Diploma. Salary: 18000 to 23000, Benifits: ESI, EPF, OT Canteen and room. Location: Devanahalli, Bangalore. Call: 7259837193

JUPITER HOSPITALS Arishinakunte Required Front Office Executives & Admin, Computer & Good English, Accommodation provided. Contact: 9341220446

Wanted

WANTED CLERICAL STAFF for Vidhya Jyothi PU College, Begur Road, Hongasandra, Bangalore- 560114. Must know Kannada & English typing. Contact: 9845003279.

EDUCATIONAL

Admission

BECOME A GRADUATE and upgrade to an MBA all Specialisations are Available Please Contact: 9341273990

RAJIV GANDHI MEMORIAL POLYTECHNIC
Near Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Kengunte Circle, Mallathahally, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560056
Phone: 080-23213282
ADMISSION OPEN - COURSES OFFERED
♦ Computer Science & Engg ♦ Mechanical Engg
♦ Electronics & Commn Engg ♦ Civil Engineering
♦ Electrical & Electronics Engg
For details contact Mobile: 8553344666, 9448865597
RGMP-26701

VEECONS REQUIRE M.E Structural Engineering (Part-Time) B.E (Civil)/ D.C.E with minimum Five years of Experience for Construction Projects Resume. Email: info@veecons.in.

MATRIMONIAL

Grooms Wanted

Punjabi

WANTED GROOM
SLIM, Fair, Beautiful, Never Married, Punjabi girl, 37, 5'3", born & brought up in Delhi. Working as Strategy Director in MNC in Bangalore, (Rs.60 LPA). Seeks smart, well-settled match based in Bangalore.
Contact: 7837483747

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Business For Sale

SALE HOSPITALS 100_bed multi_speciality hospital near Manyata techpark, 50_bed hospital in Indiranagar, 50_bed hospital near Marthahalli. Call Arun 9845077299.

EDUCATION CORNER Classifieds

MOUNT CARMEL ENGLISH SCHOOL
Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-98
A Remarkable Achievements Of Our School Toppers - 2025-26
State 3rd Rank
Niharika Venkatesh 623/625 Sanskrit - 125/125 English-100/100 Maths-100/100 Science-100/100 Social-100/100 99.68%
Hrishikesh Markod 602/625 96.32%
Sapna P Lohar 598/625 95.68% Sanskrit - 125/125
A Nagoomi 594/625 95% Sanskrit - 125/125
Impana Jai 580/625 93% Hindi - 100/100
Yashwanth H G 578/625 92%
Poorvi H 574/625 92%
Harshitha N 574/625 92%
Ravikiran Gowda M C 573/625 91.68%
Ankitha Sree Gowda 573/625 91.68%
Deekshith 554/625 89%
Vinay Kumar A 552/625 88% Social- 100/100
Roshini P 551/625 88%
Prarthana R B 539/625 86%
Tejaswi P 574/625 86%
Congratulations to all
ADMISSION OPEN FOR - 2026-27
Pre-Nursey to Grade-IX
Phone: 080-28602294/28602295, Mob: 7899070902
E-mail: mountcarmel.rrnagar@gmail.com Website: mountcarmelrrnagar.com

BHARATH EDUCATION SOCIETY®
BES Pre-University College of Science, Commerce & Arts
27, Sahakara Rathna B.L. Lakke Gowda Road, 16th Main, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru-560011
Email: principalas018@gmail.com
Website: www.besinstitutions.com
080-26637018 / 98863 52466
Free Integrated Course NEET, JEE, K-CET, COMED-K
Affordable Fee for I & II PUC Science
Sahakara Rathna B.L. Lakke Gowda Founder B.E.S Institutions
Sri S.T. Somashekhar Hon. President, Bharath Education Society MLA, Yeshwanthpura Constituency, Former Minister, Govt of Karnataka
COURSES OFFERED FOR : 2026-27
PUC: PCMB PCMC HEBA SEBA CEBA HEPS
Languages Offered: English, Kannada, Hindi & Sanskrit
BES EVENING PU COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & ARTS
080-26533736 / 95387 98956 Email: beseveningpucollege@gmail.com
PUC HEBA HEPS
Sri Nirmal Kumar K.R. President Bharath Education Society
Prof N.S. Vijaya Secretary Bharath Education Society
Sri Srinivasa C. Principal BES PU College
Sri Suresh Principal BES Evening PU College
BES-26704

R.E.S. POLYTECHNIC
Estd: 1986 - Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka & AICTE
10th Pass / What Next ???
JOIN DIPLOMA IN: ♦ Computer Science ♦ IS ♦ Civil ♦ Mechanical ♦ Automobile ♦ Electrical ♦ Electronics ♦ Fashion Tech ♦ Commerce (CP)
After Diploma can join JOB / 2nd year Engg OR Any Degree through LATERAL ENTRY QUOTA
PUC Pass Join 2 yrs Diploma Engineering
PUC Fail Join 3 yrs Diploma Engineering
EVENING / WEEKEND CLASSES
Available for working Professionals to EE
5, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Road, Hegganahalli Cross, B-91
Call: Secretary-99166 46466 / Principal-9916639466
RES-26701

ಜನಸೇವಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾಕೇಂದ್ರ ಬಾಲಕರ ನಿಲಯ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು
ಚನ್ನೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮಾಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562130
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 9241216119/7022428464
email:123jsvkhighschool@gmail.com
2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪ್ರವೇಶಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರೆ
5, 6, 7ನೇ ತರಗತಿಗಳು: ಉತ್ತಮ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಭಾಷಾ ಕಲಿಕೆಯಂದಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ
8ನೇ ತರಗತಿ: ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಭಾಷೆ: ಕನ್ನಡ/ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ
ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳುಳ್ಳ ಪರಿಚಾಯಿಕೆಗೆ ರೂ.350/–ಮಾತ್ರ
Contact: 9241216119 / 7022428464
ಗೌರವ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

JANASEVA P.U.COLLEGE
Residential for Boys
Channenahalli,20th K.M.Magadi Main Road,Bangalore-562130
Email:janasevapuc@gmail.com, 123jsvkhighschool@gmail.com
ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27
First Year PUC Science (PCMB/PCMCs) Commerce (SEBA & CEBA)
Excellent coaching by experienced and highly qualified faculty members, Very Good Hostel Facility in natural environment.
Local Students (Boys & Girls) may also apply
Application forms are available in the college Office between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mob:080-23901414/9148275341
-Hon Secretary

Machinery & Tools

FURNITURE MANUFACTURING Machineries For Sale Unit is in Tumkur KIADB Shed Contact Owner: 9845048193/ 9972417196

CAUTION NOTICE Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

PERSONAL

Lost

LOST OF SALE DEED I, Smt Janaki N S W/o Late N.V.Subbarao residing at No.1941, A block 11th Main Road, 2nd stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, Constructed house in same above address have Lost Original Sale deed in the Name of my husband Late Sri.N.V.Subbarao Registered at Rajajinagar Sub Registrar on 09-05-1972 Book No.1, Volume 59, Page No. 187-189, No.730/72-73 while travelling. finder Please Contact: 9886884981

DH Classifieds More value, more impact
EDUCATION
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
Book your Educational Related Ads in DH All Karnataka + Prajavani Bengaluru City
www.dhclassifieds.com
BOOK NOW
*Conditions apply
For more details contact:
+91 9731810277 | +91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036

ILLUSIONS AND DELUSIONS

The rupee's dilemma: Pride vs practicality

TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
@tcartca

In India, the rupee has always been more than a currency. Its exchange rate is treated as a symbol of national pride – a "strong rupee" equated with stability, a "falling rupee" with weakness. Importers and stock market operators cheer a strong rupee because it keeps costs predictable. Policymakers, too, equate appreciation with credibility. However, global lessons can be instructive. A strong currency has its own problems. Japan's forced appreciation following the 1980s Plaza Accord eroded its export competitiveness and fueled asset bubbles, which ultimately caused long periods of growth stagnation. A large part of the domestic problems underlying the US tariff wars is because the strong dollar has eroded its non-high-tech manufacturing competitiveness and employment-creating potential, while China's deliberate undervaluation of the yuan continues to power its export-dependent boom.

However, our policy reflexes have their own deep roots: the traumatic 36.5% devaluation of 1966, the associated domestic inflation, and the consequential electoral losses left a scar that still shapes policy instincts. Since then, the declared policy has been to avoid exchange rate rigidities to avoid headline-making exchange rate shocks. Yet these recur. The causative factors need discussion.

One important aspect is that, given our high import dependence on several mass consumption items, such as fuel, edible oils, and fertilisers, policymakers lean towards defending the currency, wary of the inflationary consequences of visible depreciation even when fundamentals demand adjustment. These instincts, in combination, have produced cycles of defence followed by collapse, as fundamentals always, eventually, reassert themselves; so when the correction comes, it is abrupt.

The 1991 crisis was an important turning point. Two quick devaluations pushed the rupee near Rs 26 per dollar. Extensive governance reform, resulting in economic liberalisation, and financial market reforms were carried out. Longstanding ministerial oversight was replaced by the creation of well-staffed, adequately empowered, and independent regulators. These initiatives, over time, created a more efficient and responsive marketplace. The rise of the IT sector in global economies created new avenues of growth. In the decades that followed, service exports and capital inflows cushioned the external account, though the currency weakened steadily.

Furthermore, in support of the policy to avoid sudden exchange rate shocks, the Reserve Bank of India has, since the early 1990s, regularly been publishing Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) tables to signal whether the rupee is over- or undervalued. However, REER is diagnostic, not preventive. It shows whether or not a currency is misaligned and, further, has an unspoken assumption of a *status quo* in the external environment. External shocks such as US Fed policy changes, oil crises, etc., can overwhelm based on their relevance to a particular economy. The 2012 and 2026 challenges are cases in point.

However, both of these latter crises have primarily occurred because manufacturing never achieved adequate depth or competitiveness, leaving India perennially exposed to current account deficits, mostly compensated for by capital market surpluses. This is happening because, when the 1991 liberalisation reforms were being carried out, reforms in the real economy were quietly deferred. Entrepreneurs have understood this reality. Even with schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI), many hesitate to commit serious capital to factories. Cheap imports of components and machinery, thin margins, and weak global competitiveness make industry a tough bet compared to real estate, finance, or consumer ventures.

Established business houses reflect this shift, deepening investments in services and retail, while limiting manufacturing mostly to final-stage assembly of imported components and, often, sub-assemblies. This persistent lack of export-competitive manufacturing is the core vulnerability. Services exports have grown impressively, but without a strong industrial base, the rupee lacks resilience. That weakness magnifies the impact of external shocks – whether US Fed policy shifts, oil price spikes, or sudden capital outflows – turning what might have been manageable adjustments into sharp currency falls.

In recent weeks, the RBI has been in a fire-fighting mode. As the rupee slid toward Rs 95 to the dollar, it tightened rules on currency derivatives to choke speculation, only to ease them later to restore hedging flexibility. At the same time, it stepped into the spot market, selling dollars to slow the fall, while holding policy rates steady to signal calm. These moves can calm nerves in the short run, but they don't change the underlying picture.

What India needs is not just crisis management, but deeper reform. Unless we strengthen governance in the real economy – by replacing ministerial oversight with autonomous, well-staffed regulators, devolving more economic authority to local institutions, and creating a framework that rewards productivity – the rupee will remain vulnerable. The other path is to send clearer policy signals that make technology-driven manufacturing more attractive to entrepreneurs. Only then will the currency rest on a stronger foundation, backed by competitiveness rather than constant defence.

INSCRUTABLE CHINA

China's Iran imbroglio

China's carefully crafted, if contradictory, policy on the current conflict in Iran is coming under increasing strain, threatening to derail its trade, energy flows, its relations with the United States and the Gulf countries, and its ambitions to invade Taiwan.

The flip-flops in the US policies have been taking a toll on China, as with many other countries. President Donald Trump's avowed policy of restructuring global and regional orders is affecting China. The capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro soon after the visit of a high-level Chinese delegation, the cancellation of a Chinese company's hold over the Panama Canal, and the increasing scrutiny of Chinese investments in Latin American ports are unnerving Beijing.

So is the current US-Israeli war against Iran and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. China has shifted from its initial pro forma position on the violation of international law and sovereignty to active negotiation. On April 14 and April 20, President Xi Jinping explicitly underscored resolution of the conflict – a stance markedly different from the nuanced earlier position favouring back-channel diplomacy. China's position is clearly inconsistent here, as seen in its militarisation of the South and East China Seas and the border with India.

On April 20, President Xi called Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as part of efforts to open the Strait of Hormuz. Despite diversification of its energy needs to Russia, Central Asia, and Africa, a surge in renewables, and stronger strategic oil reserves, China is feeling the heat of energy disruptions. Domestic fuel prices are up by 20% – the fifth hike this year – while the uncertainty about the Hormuz blockade is hampering its economic growth prospects.

Also, China has been selectively blocking the South China Sea waterways for vessels from the US, India, and other countries. In 2011, China reportedly harassed the Indian naval vessel INS Airavat. Later, ONGC Videsh Limited rigs came under China's pressure even though they were located in areas held by Vietnam. The USNS Impeccable incident in 2009 was another instance of harassment.

Srikanth Kondapalli
The JNU Prof has been Peking behind the Bamboo Curtain for 30 years
@Sri_Kondapalli

At the centre of the present crisis, however, is the Iranian nuclear programme, cited by the US and Israel as the "fundamental" issue in the conflict. Russia and China are, separately, toying with the idea of taking away Iran's enriched uranium. Since the 1990s, Russian and Chinese scientists have helped Iran in developing the programme; both countries have leverage over Tehran on this account. No wonder Trump stated on April 8 that China is contributing towards turning around Iran's leadership for negotiations.

Meanwhile, China's reported supply of weapons and dual-use materials, strengthening Tehran's air defence and navigation systems, and Iran's strikes on energy, civilian, and technology targets in the Gulf states are straining China-Gulf relations.

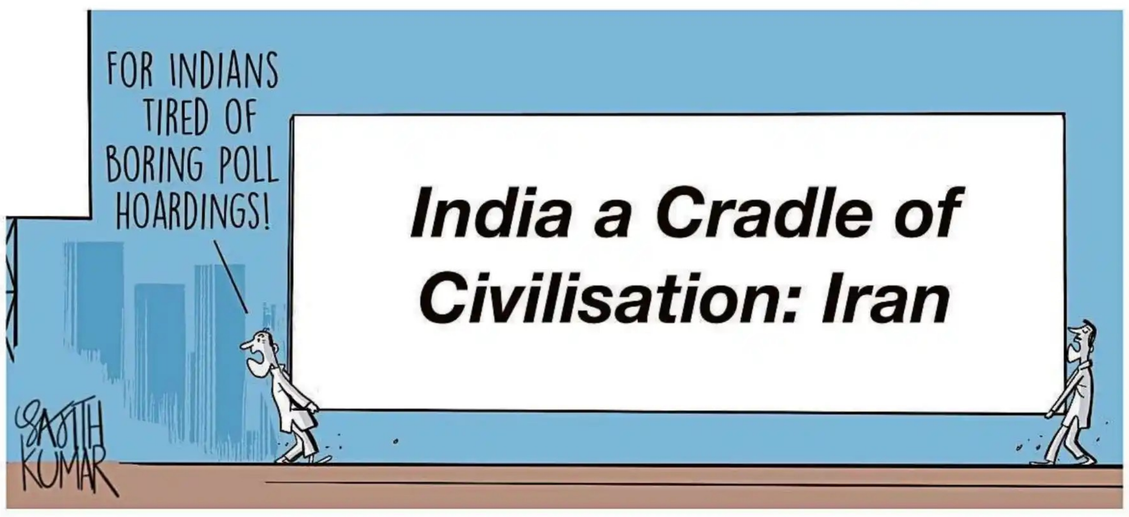
China imports more energy from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Kuwait—countries targeted by Iran—than the sanctioned oil it imports from Iran, a factor China has been unable to reconcile. Its overall trade with the Gulf countries and Iran decreased sharply in March this year due to the uncertainty in the region and the blockade of Hormuz.

Despite expressions of bravado, China's dependence on the US has been modulating Beijing's approach to the war in West Asia. Trump's expected visit to Beijing on May 14-15, postponed from March, is a crucial variable in the current conflict. Though the President had lowered the tariffs on Beijing, signalled the lifting of the ban on semiconductors in lieu of rare earth mineral supplies, bilateral relations have not reached a balance.

Some analysts argue that the distraction of the US in Iran and the reported depletion of its cruise missile inventory and other war supplies can present an opportunity for China to enter Taiwan. However, this is easier said than done, given the protracted nature of conflicts in recent times (in Gaza, Ukraine, Iran, and other regions) and the geopolitical uncertainties. China is well aware of the dangers involved in such a move.

While China condemns the unilateral military action against Iran and calls for de-escalation and negotiation, it has not stepped back from its ongoing military actions against Taiwan. Notably, it has not initiated de-escalation and de-induction measures on the border with India.

Clearly, China's positions during the West Asia conflict and its adoption of a "balanced diplomacy" between Iran and the Gulf states have not yielded the desired results. It needs to be seen if its offer to store the enriched uranium will be accepted by the Iranian leadership.



THAT BLIND RHODES SCHOLAR

POCSO and the case for a Romeo and Juliet clause

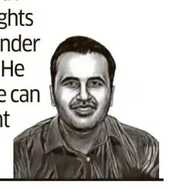
A recent judgment of the Delhi High Court, in *Harmeet Singh v. GNCTD*, has again underscored the need for India's POCSO Act framework to be revisited. The case arose from an FIR, triggered by a hospital where the woman delivered a child. The man was 22 at the time of the alleged offence; the girl was 17. In quashing the FIR, what weighed with the Court was the fact that the girl was the legal victim, but she did not want the case to be pursued. The Court distinguished between a legal victim and a factual victim. It went a step further, cautioning that the continuation of criminal proceedings would amount to victimising the girl again, rather than protecting her, by destabilising her family, if the man were sent to prison under the POCSO Act.

This is not an isolated instance. In *Prince Kumar Sharma v. GNCTD*, the Delhi High Court, while refusing to quash an FIR under the same law, articulated the tension with unusual candour: "Seeing the victim with her infant child brings home that these proceedings are tied to the stability of a young family. At the same time, this is precisely the kind of matter in which the statutory framework of the POCSO Act sits uneasily with lived reality, and the tension between the two is stark." In *Prince Kumar Sharma*, however, the Court was firm: a minor is not allowed to give consent under the POCSO Act and, therefore, there was no room to quash the case.

These decisions highlight a deeper structural issue. The POCSO Act is premised on a bright-line rule: anyone below 18 is incapable of giving legal consent. While this is a necessary safeguard against abuse, its blanket application often collapses distinctions between exploitative and consensual relationships.

The problem is compounded by the State's shortcomings. In many of these cases, the girl's dependence on the accused is not merely emotional but economic. The uncomfortable question that arises is this: why is the State unable to provide a viable support system for a minor mother and her child? In a recent decision, the Calcutta High Court reduced a man's sentence under POCSO while expressing its helplessness at the State's failure to ensure the girl's social security. When prosecution threatens to destabilise what little security exists, courts are forced into uneasy compromises.

Rahul Bajaj
is a practising lawyer with expertise in disability rights and IP law, and is co-founder of Mission Accessibility. He wears more hats than he can himself sometimes count
@rahul400



Yet, any call for reform must proceed with caution. Not all apparent "consent" is meaningful. As the Delhi High Court noted in *Saivan v. State*, what appears to be voluntary participation by a minor may, in fact, be shaped by familial pressure, community norms, or internalised expectations. The law cannot afford to romanticise such situations.

Furthermore, the modern context introduces risks. The phenomenon of grooming – where a minor is gradually manipulated into a relationship – has become far more pervasive in the social media age. High-profile global scandals, such as the Jeffrey Epstein case, have sharpened public awareness of how consent can be manufactured. The current POCSO framework, however, does not distinguish between consensual peer relationships and those vitiated by subtle coercion or manipulation.

This is why the conversation around a 'Romeo and Juliet' clause has gained urgency. Such provisions, present in several jurisdictions, create a narrow exception for consensual relationships between individuals close in age, subject to carefully designed safeguards. They do not dilute the protective intent of statutory rape laws but refine their application to avoid unjust outcomes.

Designing such a framework would require balancing multiple, often competing, considerations. The need to respect genuine, informed consent where it exists; the imperative to guard against coercion, grooming, and structural inequalities; ensuring that minor mothers are not left at the mercy of those accused of POCSO Act offences; and above all, the commitment to preserving the core objective of POCSO: to shield minors from sexual exploitation.

This is not a task courts can – or should – undertake alone. Judicial decisions, however nuanced, operate within the constraints of existing legislation. What is needed is a considered legislative response. Parliament must engage with domain experts – legal scholars, child rights activists, psychologists, and sociologists – to craft a framework that is attentive to current social realities.

The recent judgments illuminate the gaps in a law enacted more than two decades ago. A narrowly tailored 'Romeo and Juliet' clause may not resolve every complexity. But it could mark an important step towards a legal system that protects without overreaching and punishes without losing sight of human context.

KNOWN UNKNOWNS

AI slop is human slop

Spontaneously reacting to a comment in a recent team meeting, I said, "AI slop is actually human slop." It was not meant as a clever retort. It was a reminder that the responsibility for what we produce has not shifted, even if the tools have.

The phrase "AI slop" has entered public discourse with surprising speed. It is used to describe the flood of low-quality, repetitive, and often meaningless content generated by artificial intelligence (AI). Scroll through social media, and one sees endless variations of the same image, the same paragraph, the same idea, slightly rearranged but rarely rethought. It is tempting to blame the machine. But that would be convenient, and incorrect.

AI systems do not originate intent. They reflect it. In that sense, AI is less a creator and more a mirror. And the reflection is not always flattering. A useful analogy lies in technical coding.

Consider two engineers working with the same AI coding assistant. One asks for "a function to process factory operations data" and accepts the first output. The result is often verbose, generic, and fragile code. It works in isolation but fails under edge cases, lacks structure, and is difficult to maintain. The other engineer approaches the task differently. She defines the problem precisely, specifies constraints, considers performance, and iterates through multiple versions. She tests edge cases, refines the logic, and integrates the output into a broader system architecture. The AI coding assistant assists, but the thinking, the design, and the responsibility remain hers. The difference in output is stark. Not because the tool changed, but because the user's input did.

This pattern is not new. In software engineering, code quality is determined less by syntax and more by design thinking. A poorly thought-through system, even if syntactically correct, becomes technical debt. A well-designed system, even if built with standard components, becomes robust and scalable. AI accelerates this divergence. Give it vague prompts and a desire for speed, and it will produce brittle solutions at scale. Give it clarity, structure, and intent, and it becomes a powerful collaborator. The variance is in the human using the model.

Gopichand Katragadda
The former CTO of Tata Group and founder of AI company Myelin Foundry is driven to peel off known facts to discover unknown layers
@Gkatragadda

Good prompts are not easy. They require clarity of thought, domain understanding, and a willingness to iterate. The first output from an AI system is rarely the final one. At best, it is a rough stone, carved to a gross level. The detailing still demands human effort. The nuance, optimisation, and integration are yours.

Serious work today often involves engaging multiple AI systems, each with its own strengths and limitations. One may help with structuring logic, another with identifying edge cases, and a third with improving readability or documentation. The synthesis, however, remains human. It is the individual who must decide what to keep, what to discard, and what to question.

The economics of this shift are equally significant. The cost of generating code and content has collapsed. What once required time and effort can now be produced in seconds. This has led to an explosion of volume, but not necessarily of value. When the marginal cost of creation approaches zero, the incentive often shifts from quality to quantity. The result is systems filled with unnecessary complexity, duplicated logic, and superficial fixes. However, abundance does not automatically lead to dilution. It raises the bar for discernment.

We are seeing early signs of this. In engineering teams, the difference between code that is merely generated and code that is thoughtfully engineered is becoming evident. The former may pass initial tests but often fails in production. The latter endures.

This has implications beyond coding. As AI becomes more capable, the value of human contribution shifts from production to judgment. The ability to ask the right question, frame the problem correctly, and evaluate the output critically becomes more important than the ability to produce lines of code. In this emerging landscape, blaming AI for low-quality output is a form of abdication. It absolves us of responsibility for what we create.

A more useful perspective is to treat AI as a forcing function. It exposes our tendencies at scale. If we are careless, it amplifies carelessness. If we are thoughtful, it extends that thoughtfulness. The challenge is, hence, not to reduce AI slop; it is to reduce human slop.

AI is a tool. The thinking is still yours. The code is still yours. The writing is still yours. If the inputs improve, so will the outputs. And if they do not, the mirror will continue to reflect exactly what we are.

THIS AND THAT

Homespun icon: How Rajkumar's legacy endures

S R Ramakrishna
often sees high art in kitsch and vice versa

Earlier this week, a packed Chowdaiah Memorial Hall listened to some of Rajkumar's most popular songs. The show, titled Bangarada Manushya, was a first of its kind, tracing the life and times of the iconic Kannada film star through his songs.

For three hours and a half, the audience sat spellbound, humming along when the singers gave them a prompt. It was just a day before Rajkumar's 97th birth anniversary, and it brought back nostalgic memories of a momentous era in Kannada cinema when Rajkumar films ruled the box office. Hosted by the music groups Suraaghavi and Babu School of Rhythms, the show also reminded us how the actor-singer's work remains popular to this day.

It has been 20 years since Rajkumar's passing, and close to 72 years since his debut in a leading role. The audience had a considerable section of young people familiar with his songs. The musicians, some of the best in the business, were clearly enjoying the challenges of covering hit melodies recorded by orchestras of 80-120 musicians.

Many legends surround Rajkumar, a phenomenon like no other, and stories emerging in recent years reveal new facets of his life. A telling incident recalled by music composer V Manohar speaks volumes about how Rajkumar conducted himself with his peers. When asked to compose for an album, Manohar created multiple tunes for each song and nervously confessed to Rajkumar that he was not familiar with classical ragas. "I don't know much about them either," Rajkumar reassured him. Manohar later discovered that Rajkumar knew all 72 melakarta ragas, which form the basis of raga classification in Karnatik classical music.

'Simple' and 'humble' are terms used commonly to describe Rajkumar, but they can be misleading. Rajkumar had little formal learning – he dropped out in primary school. But his learning was informal and vast. He could quote classic Kannada poetry from memory, he could sing difficult ragas, and pull off difficult *asanas* in yoga. He wore his simplicity like Gandhi wore khadi, perhaps to disarm the not-so-accomplished people who interacted with him.

We see Rajkumar as a Kannada icon, but was there even a single contemporary in all of Indian cinema who could match his disciplined understanding and exposition of classical music? Much of Rajkumar's musical ability came from the days he had spent on stage, doing mythological roles.

How Rajkumar galvanised the Gokak agitation, demanding primacy for Kannada in school education, is well documented. His films mined Karnataka's history and folklore, and were proud about the Kannada identity. That spirit has eroded, with more recent stars talking more about pan-India releases rather than their roots. Rajkumar's acting range was wide, and covered everything from comedy to historical dramas to Bond-style adventures. His devotional oeuvre was stagey and populist – when he played Kalidasa, for instance, he reinforced the myth that the Sanskrit poet, born a shepherd, had acquired literary merit not because of his efforts but because a goddess had blessed him. But then, even when his films reinforced conventional stereotypes, they scored with their music.

Rajkumar's relationship with writers was occasionally contentious. Novelist S L Bhyrappa reportedly refused permission for one of his works to be made into a Rajkumar film. U R Ananthamurthy criticised Rajkumar spearheading the Gokak agitation, asserting that literary intellectuals were best suited for that role. Rajkumar and Ananthamurthy eventually shared a stage in Udupi, and Rajkumar asked the writer for advice on what he should speak. The Jnanpith laureate, who defined the role of a writer as that of a 'critical insider', suggested Rajkumar sing a Purandaradasa composition, which he did to huge applause.

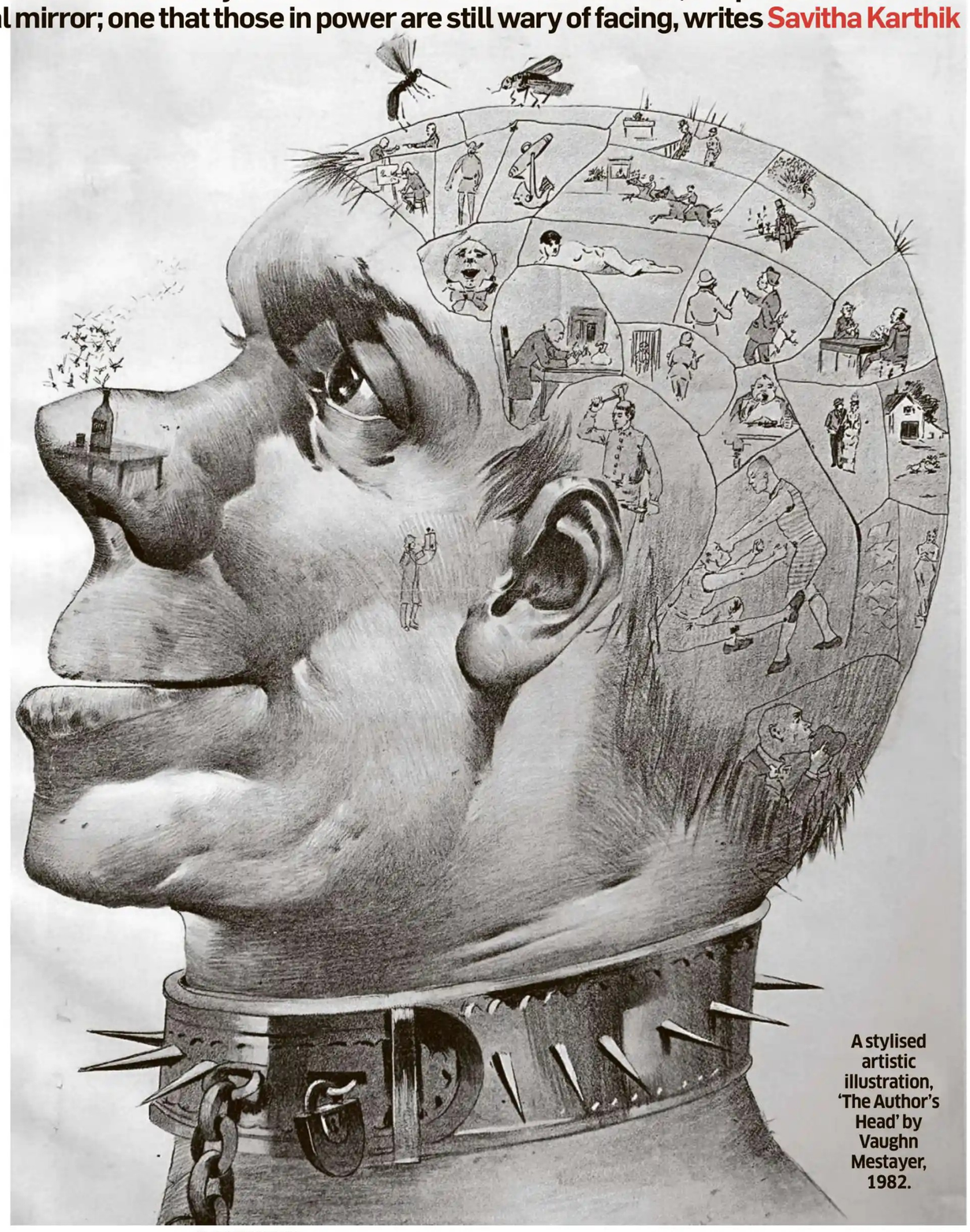
When the firebrand writer P Lankesh interviewed Rajkumar, he asked him probing questions. Rajkumar had famously played the saint Raghavendra Swami, and Lankesh asked him about discrimination when meals were served at places hallowed by his memory. Rajkumar hinted that he was aware of the darker dimensions of caste, but at the same time asserted that he had transcended them by winning the love of fans across all communities.

In 2000, Rajkumar was kidnapped by Veerappan, the dreaded sandalwood smuggler and poacher who, with a gang armed with rifles, ruled the forests of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for decades. For a little over a hundred days, he held Rajkumar captive, triggering panic across the two states. He was eventually released after two desperate governments sent their emissaries and negotiated a deal with him.

Rajkumar's films continue to be restored and released – *Sampathige Saval*, from 1974, was released again in 2026. His songs appear frequently on music reality shows. In a recent reel, shot at a live show abroad, Malayalam star Mohanlal sang one of Rajkumar's hits. Another reel doing the rounds shows the Hindi actor Govinda singing a Rajkumar song. Rajkumar will not be forgotten anytime soon. And, as highlighted by the musical documentary Bangarada Manushya, the most striking quality of Rajkumar's cinema is its optimism and music.

Ink that stings

From Nehru's invitation to be mocked to today's meme-fuelled wars and anxieties, the political cartoon endures as a sharp satirical mirror; one that those in power are still wary of facing, writes Savitha Karthik



A stylised artistic illustration, 'The Author's Head' by Vaughn Mestayer, 1982.

"Don't spare me, Shankar," India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, famously told cartoonist K Shankar Pillai when *Shankar's Weekly* was launched in 1948. Shankar, as he was widely known, duly obliged by not sparing the prime minister in his cartoons. Shankar was even part of Nehru's entourage during the prime minister's visit to the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1955. Such was the sway the political cartoonist held over India's collective imagination back then. On cartoons about himself, Nehru said, "It is good to have the veil of our conceit torn occasionally." Shankar had 4,000 cartoons featuring Prime Minister Nehru.

And yet, cartoons have drawn so much ire, and people in positions of power have often taken a greater offence to the cartoon than other forms of expression. This becomes all the more true in the age of viral content. Widely published cartoonist Satish Acharya observes, "The popular perception is that cartoons go viral easily and so offend powerful people because images communicate effectively. That could be one reason. The other reason could be that cartoons hit hard because they are unfiltered, unlike a 1000-word article."

Satish feels that an editorial cartoonist has greater freedom to criticise, tease, ridicule and sometimes instigate readers to think.

A long history of defiance

Cartoons have, for centuries, been used to express dissent and satirise events and personalities. Eighteenth-century English artist William Hogarth's *The Humours of an Election*, a series of four paintings, reflects the competitive canvassing and wooing of voters during elections. An Election Entertainment (1755), one of the four paintings, depicts a gathering at an inn where the potential electorate is being treated to a feast by a political party, in the style of The Last Supper.

One can't talk of political and satirical cartooning without mentioning the New Zealand-born British cartoonist Sir David Low, whom the late British prime minister Sir Winston Churchill called the "Charlie Chaplin of caricature." "Tragedy and comedy are the same to him," Churchill wrote of the cartoonist, who was, on many occasions, critical of the then prime minister.

David Low also served as an inspiration to a generation of Indian cartoonists, including Shankar and the legendary R K Laxman, says veteran cartoonist based out of Bengaluru, V G Narendra. Narendra's work during his stint at the *Free Press Journal* caught the eye of Shankar, who asked him to work at his weekly journal in Delhi. Narendra was part of *Shankar's Weekly* for two years, leading up to the Emergency, which was when the weekly had to stop. Narendra later went on to work in other newspapers and eventually started the Indian Institute of Cartoonists, the first national-level organisation of cartoonists in India.

Although Shankar captured the pan-Indian imagination, there were many names that had a formidable following. Mita Roy, who has been a political cartoonist for four decades and has contributed to various newspapers, reels off names like R K Laxman, Rajinder Puri, Abu Abraham, Kutty, Ahmed, and OV Vijayan, each of whom had a distinctive and compelling style of depiction. She looked up to her own father, Sovendra Nath Roy, who introduced her to the finer nuances of the craft.

Satirical cartoons in colonial India

India's satirical cartoons can be traced to the colonial period. The book, *Caricaturing culture in India*, by cultural anthropologist Ritu Gairola Khanduri, traces the culture of caricaturing and the editorial cartoon in India, and draws richly from the accounts of many eminent cartoonists in the country over the decades. The author mentions the magazine *Punch*, which frequently offered insights into colonial India and the politics of the time — "the lion, tiger, sepoys and Colonia offer visual tropes signalling how cartoons employ gender, animals, and objects to formulate the human experience of colonial politics." A famous *Punch* cartoon from 1857 is titled The British Lion's Vengeance on the Bengal Tiger by John Tenniel, a noted cartoonist of the time. Her book references an assessment of the cartoonist, which states that "Tenniel's India cartoons in general "suddenly brought about an increase in circulation that year.'"

Commentary on colonial India by the British was notable, but Indian cartoonists were not too far behind. Many versions of the *Punch* emerged, from Awadh Punch to Parsee and Hindi Punch, between the 1850s and 1940s. *The Delhi Sketch Book*, which was published by the Delhi Gazette in the 1850s, offers a commentary on British rule, the officers and their mannerisms. Then there was the 19th-century poet, social reformer, and leader C Subramania Bharati's journal, *India*, which published cartoons. The magazine *Koravanji*, which provided a platform for one of the biggest names in the cartooning world, R K Laxman, was launched in 1942 by Dr M Shivaram, aka Ra Shi.

The Everyman and Everywoman

Readers of this newspaper may recall B V Ramamurthy's Mr Citizen, a long-running pocket cartoon series, featuring the Everyman in a Mysuru peta and panche, commenting on the happenings of his time. Another Everyman is R K Laxman's 'Common Man' who, for over five decades, observed and judged life around him. Through the 'You Said It' series, Laxman made sharp observations about everyday life, governance and the political class, among other themes.

In her book, Ritu Gairola talks about the evolution of the common men and women in cartoons over the years. Talking about late cartoonist Maya Kamath's work, Ritu notes, "Kamath's Common Woman reveals a tongue that is not always tied or safely tucked away in silence." "We lost Maya early," says V G Narendra, who has been associated with the cartoonist in the past and is highly appreciative of her work. "The cartoons reveal debilitating truths about the modern nation that the prose of news and specialists' jargon of all stripes refuse to acknowledge," writes Ritu.

Is there a Laxman Rekha?

When does a cartoon become less critical and more offensive? Is there a line or not? Should there be boundaries at all?

Explains Satish Acharya, "Before a cartoonist draws the first line, they draw a Laxman Rekha. Mostly, it's a self-imposed boundary. In a diverse country like India, a reckless cartoon could lead to riots in a fragile society like ours, which is always on the edge because of inflammatory social media." The cartoonist adds that he draws his own boundary within which he has enough freedom to criticise or question the most powerful people. "Despite this boundary, people in power get offended because they are worried more about their image," he adds.

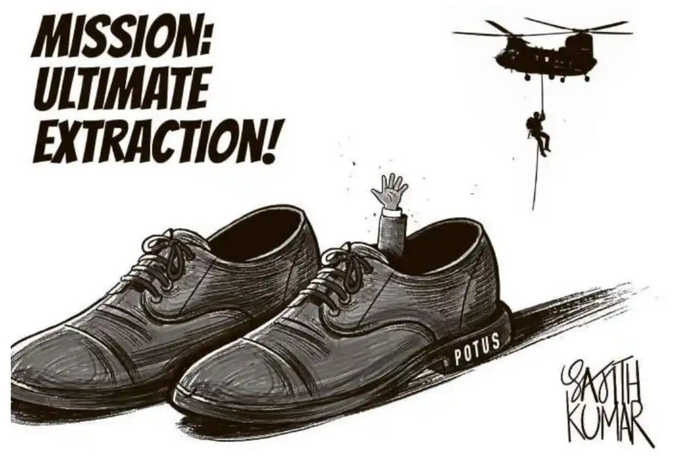
Says Mita Roy, "As the adage goes, the pen is mightier than the sword. It wields power, and with power comes responsibility. Political cartoons are a vital democratic instrument for fostering accountability without resorting to malice or endorsing hatefulness. They should be thought-provoking, not provoking; insightful, not inciting."

Every time you check your social media feeds, you are bound to find memes and web comics that perform the same role as the editorial cartoon — critiquing and satirising events and personalities of the day.

Anonymity on the Internet has ensured greater freedom of expression. However, there is no dearth of takedowns across the globe, and in India as well. According to the Freedom in the World 2026 report, India has been tagged 'partly free' with a score of 62 out of 100. The report, released by a US-based NGO that advocates for human rights and democracy across the world, says global freedom has dropped for the 20th consecutive year.

And yet, the satirical cartoon doesn't seem like it's going anywhere — it may take a different avatar, but like the proverbial Hydra, "you cut off one head, and two more shall take its place."

A cartoon by Shankar. (PIC COURTESY: INDIAN CARTOON GALLERY ARCHIVES)

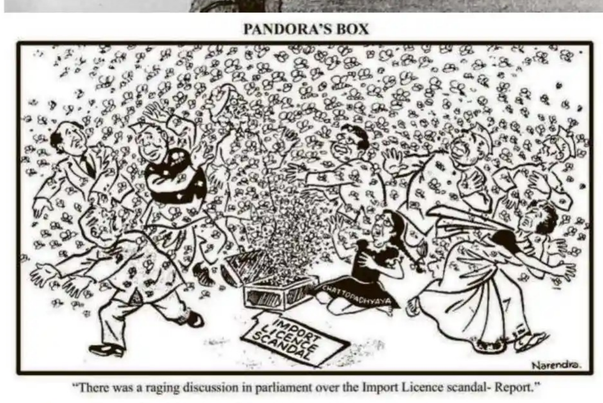


A political cartoon by Sajith Kumar featured in this publication.

'Man reading morning paper with coffee'. A vintage illustration from the British satire comic, 'Punch's Almanack'.

A cartoon by B V Ramamurthy that was featured in this publication. (PIC: DH ARCHIVES)

'The Sleeping Congregation' by William Hogarth, 1736.



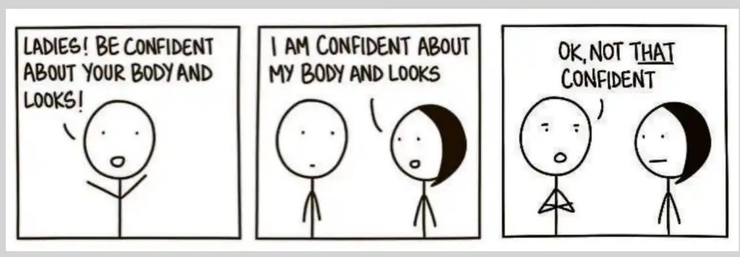
"There was a raging discussion in parliament over the Import Licence scandal- Report."

A cartoon by Narendra. (PIC: INDIAN CARTOON GALLERY ARCHIVES)

A cartoon by Deepak Harichandan for this publication.

Stick figures, hefty messaging

How easy or difficult has it been for satirical and political cartoonists online, in an ecosystem that's increasingly wary of criticism?



Rachita Taneja. (PIC COURTESY: MEGHNA)

Cartoonist Rachita Taneja's debut book of comics is aptly titled 'Touching Grass' (Bloomsbury) — Internet slang for telling someone off for being so immersed in online culture that they have lost touch with reality. Although Rachita has been using online platforms to take her cartoons to the world, she is well aware of the realities of life around her. On social media, she is known more by her handle 'Sanitary Panels', and has been cartooning about life, society, queer rights, climate change, and politics, from as far back as 2014, when she created her first comic in reaction to the arrest of students for critiquing the government.

Rachita, who's in her thirties, has since gone on to make hundreds of cartoons on her social media platforms, with over 2,50,000 online followers and counting. What does the handle she uses to post mean, we ask. "A group of friends were brainstorming, and one of us suddenly thought of sanitary pads, and that's how the name came up. It addresses what used to be or continues to be a taboo even now in our patriarchal society," she explains. Rape may be a less offensive word than menstruation, considering how many struggle to even mention the word, Rachita remarks. Rachita has often critiqued narratives around patriarchy. One of her comics talks about how women are told to "be confident about your body and looks", but also warns about being too confident — a reflection of the hypocrisies and tokenism that exist in mainstream narratives. (*see pic*)

But it's her political commentary that fetches Rachita the most feedback online — her sharp observations on bigotry, fascist tendencies and the many binaries that exist in Indian society have earned her both appreciation and brickbats. She won the prestigious 2024 Kofi Annan Courage in Cartooning Award, in recognition of her incisive satire. This isn't to mean that she has never felt fear at any point. "It would be disingenuous to say I haven't," she adds. To voice one's opinions on social media today would prepare one for some sort of trolling. Rachita is no stranger to this aspect of the online world. "You are trolled for being political, for being a woman, or for being someone from a minority community," she observes.

How easy or difficult has it been for satirical and political cartoonists online, in an ecosystem that's increasingly wary of criticism? India is ranked a poor 151 among 180 countries, according to the 2025 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders. Noting that things have taken a turn for the worse, she explains that while there are many new voices, there is also an increase in censorship, and several posts have been taken down. On the positive side, for each voice that is curbed, 10 more new voices are coming up with interesting and innovative ways to dissent, says Rachita. Trolling aside, Rachita's favourite feedback is where someone told her they were a fence-sitter till they were introduced to her work, and then developed a clearer understanding of what their stance was.

Internet culture has shaped Rachita to a fair extent, and her book has comics on doomscrolling (the act of consuming a never-ending loop of bad news), fake news and misinformation, among others. She recalls spending time on platforms like Tumblr, Reddit and Imgur, among others, and is clued in on the many Internet subcultures and memes. How does the meme stand out from the satirical or the political cartoon? "Satire at the core of all forms is still the same — you are just telling the same joke in different mediums," Rachita says.

Rachita has seen the best of both the online and offline worlds — with her father in the Navy, her family travelled a lot, and early on, she learnt that there wasn't just "one way of living". She also learnt early on about different cultures and contexts; critical thinking and questioning those in authority have shaped the cartoonist that she is today.

Rachita uses minimal stick figures to convey what she has to. "It's simple, uncomplicated and not intimidating," she points out, adding, "I didn't know how to draw." In her book, she explains she was impressed by 'xkcd', the stick figure comic by Randall Monroe, where he uses the minimalist style to demystify complex scientific concepts. The stick figures help her stay disciplined and enable her to put out her work faster, she explains.

What does the political cartoon mean to her, beyond its function of holding truth to power and questioning authority? The political cartoon is an effective and important tool; it is scary too for those in power to be made fun of, to be lampooned, she observes. And satire, for her, has come to be a coping mechanism.

(In conversation with Savitha Karthik)

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

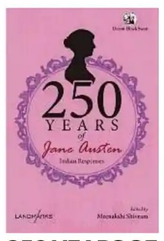
Even 250 years later, book buffs across the country continue to read the British author with pleasure and curiosity, drawn to her unerring eye for human follies, writes Indira Chandrasekhar

Austen's Indian afterlives

Regency era costume parties are a regular occurrence in the City of Bath in the United Kingdom, which was Austen's former home and a setting for many of her novels.

The thing that strikes one about this collection of essays celebrating 250 years of Jane Austen by committed Indian readers is that each contributor — be they writer, academic, journalist, student — clearly has a particular and personal relationship with Austen's writing. They reflect upon her tremendous control of craft; comment on her language, her sharp yet gentle wit; their reading and their literary range have been affected by her; they have been touched, delighted and intrigued by her stories.

A vintage portrait of Jane Austen.



250 YEARS OF JANE AUSTEN
Meenakshi Shivram (Ed)
Orient BlackSwan, pp 284, Rs 1,359

While elaborating on her work, they frame their thoughts with attention and seriousness, all the while remarking on her skill at telling a fine story. Writer Usha K R, in her opening essay on Emma, likens the novel to a matryoshka doll (you will have to read the essay to enjoy her perfect description of this likening) — even when the secret that holds the novel together is revealed, there is 'a heroine to be chastened and rewarded, young people to be paired and settled, and the world of Highbury to be set to order' highlighting that Austen is a novelist who one reads for the sheer joy of the story.

Editor of the collection, Meenakshi Shivram, makes a similar point in her introductory essay, when she speaks of the 'breathless yet tranquil anticipation' with which one reads Austen's work.

The volume contains a range of essays and viewpoints that draw from the particular perspectives of the writers' fields and positions. If space permitted, it would be a pleasure to spend time on what is such a span of responses to Jane Austen: investigations of specifics in individual novels, essays that place her in the contemporary context of cinema and retelling and eco-consciousness and standards of global evaluation, unpeel the meaning of marriage in current India, examine the tools she used for framing the world including her skill at dealing with ambivalences. Essays on poetry, on the personalities of her heroines who strive to be individual in a conformist world, and speculation on the logic with which she constructed her characters, leading as she did a relatively cloistered life, fill out the book.

The second part of the book features responses by writers to a set of questions. I pick out a few from the many that struck me:

What can fiction writers learn from her? Character, character, character.... (Nandini Sengupta).

How did you come across[her]? Her perfectly construed sentences [that] are then married to a cast of characters... (Nandita Bose)

What can writers learn from [her]? ... a masterclass on dialogue writing. (Prajwal Parajuly)

What is the big change between novels written then and those being written now? ... her male characters were not accorded the same curiosity and affection that she reserved for her female characters. (Shinie Antony)

What accounts for [her] unabated appeal? ...her grasp of romance, of the quest for love and the need to be loved ... all oiled with the steely pragmatism of economics, of money ... (Usha K R)

Githa Hariharan closes the collection with an Afterword that, in addition to talking about the inexplicable appeal of Austen, brings our awareness to the colonial context of slavery, trade and oceanic dominance, which play into the world Austen wrote about, cautioning us to 'read literature in better-informed, contextual ways'.

One asks oneself why this volume? Why does Jane Austen, writing from her very English ambit, continue to hold such interest among Indian readers? Arundhathi Subramaniam, in her poem, 'Moment of Ivory (to Jane Austen)' reproduced by Jerry Pinto in the Foreword to the collection, asks, '*Is it the distance between us that renders picturesque / the gowns of apricot taffeta, / the hot corseted moralities, / the ruthless certitudes of genteel parlours?*'

Perhaps that and more. But perhaps we must also recognise that even though the Austen-reading population in India is open to a view that is wide and reaches far, in part because of the worlds her novels opened, we, as people, are never far away from the more circumscribed worlds, the sub-cosmoses in which we are enmeshed, and are hence eternally fascinated by the intrigues, match-making plots, and human relationships that hold and drive them.

The machinations and plots and blossoming of love, so wittily, sharply, lightly and perceptively described in Austen's novels, belong to us too. Continuing to think about them by reading her again, and through collections such as this that examine her work through different focal lenses, allows us not only to delight in the many layers in the world of Jane Austen, but also to think about and unravel the complexities that we confront in our societies and in the world.

The reviewer is Founder and Principal Editor, Out of Print magazine.

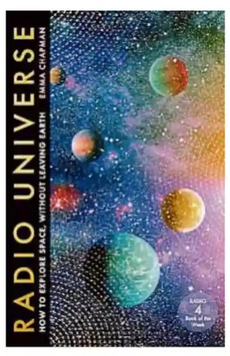
PIQUED

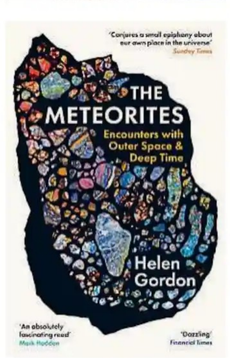
The 'pale blue dot' every single time

Against the backdrop of Nasa's recent lunar mission, Nirica Srinivasan explores two fascinating books that reflect on how space affects us right here on our lonely little planet

There are a lot of things vying for attention right now, things that feel worrying and insurmountable, that one can't help thinking of as we go about our daily lives. But there are also other things, like the Nasa-led Artemis II mission, a lunar flyby that marks the first crewed flight that left Earth orbit since 1972 — the first in my lifetime. My mind has been up in the stars. Curious, I picked up two books this week that reflect on how space affects us right here on Earth — Helen Gordon's The Meteorites: Encounters with Outer Space & Deep Time, and Emma Chapman's Radio Universe: How to Explore Space Without Leaving Earth.

In **The Meteorites**, Gordon looks at pieces of space that come to meet us on the ground. Meteorites are rocks that come to us "from the dark coldness of space"— pieces of ancient asteroids, planets, or even comets, that survive the journey to our Earth. In accessible and wide-ranging chapters, Gordon meets museum curators, scientists, amateur meteorite hunters, meteorite dealers and collectors, and fellow enthusiasts. The chapters span the Sahara to Antarctica (two stark places that make meteorite collecting slightly easier than in others), to micrometeorite hunters on very urban rooftops. She writes of meteorites witnessed as they reached Earth ("falls") and ones that have been discovered from centuries ago ("finds").





More than anything else, there is a palpable sense of wonder in these pages — how these otherworldly rocks can tell us something about the universe at large, and our place within it. Gordon writes that she always thought that "we are here, space is out there. Now I'm realising that, of course, that isn't true. Out there is all around us."

The people in these pages are holding objects that are older than we can imagine, that travelled incredible distances through space and time to reach us. The Meteorites is full of surprises, like — as happens to a family in these pages — there's a possibility you could open your front door and find a piece of space sitting on your driveway.

In **Radio Universe**, Chapman writes about radio astronomy and its rich history. She herself works with radio astronomy, and in a sense, this book is her pitch to remind us of its importance, which may be overshadowed by optical telescopes or the very rare and expensive missions that leave our Earth. This is an accessible overview of what we've done so far to learn about everything around us — the Sun, the Moon, the planets nearest to us; the nature of black holes, and neutron stars — and where we are going in our journey to understand the universe.

Through the book, Chapman reminds us that radio astronomy has been here for a really long time, founded on the same science that structures so much of our daily life, but turned up, towards the sky. She reminds us of the incredible power of listening and piecing together data to fill in the gaps where optical telescopes can't. This is a wide-ranging and accessible book for a science newbie like myself.

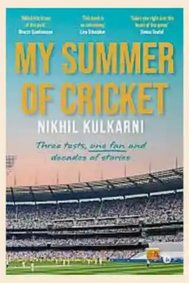
I want to end here by reflecting on something that always seems to echo through space exploration, from the Apollo missions to Carl Sagan's "pale blue dot," to today; it echoes through these books, too. And that is the reminder that our Earth is so much smaller and more unique than we remember. From up there, really all you can sense is the Earth's beauty, a feeling of collectiveness, and loneliness — no borders (although probably you can see the effects of years of climate change). It can feel dissonant that so many different kinds of realities are unfolding at the same time — up there with so much optimism, and down here on Earth, where a new tragedy occurs daily. But I will quote what Artemis II astronaut Christina Koch said, on their lunar flyby: "You can look up and see the moon right now. We see you, too. When we burned this burn towards the moon, I said that we do not leave Earth. That is true. We will explore. We will build ships. We will visit again. [...] But ultimately, we will always choose Earth. We will always choose each other."

Piqued *is a monthly column in which the staff of Champaca Bookstore bring us unheard voices and stories from their shelves. The reviewer is a writer and illustrator.*

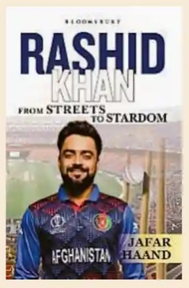
MOOD BOARD

As the IPL fever hots up, here are three books, two full of real-world drama and the other, imagined, that capture the game's many faces:

My Summer Of Cricket by Nikhil Kulkarni (Notion Press):
This traces the author's devotion to the sport over the last three decades. From a village in North Karnataka in India to the bright lights of Sydney, Nikhil has lived and breathed the inevitable highs and lows that come with being a cricket fan. This dedication culminated in the summer of 2024/25, when he undertook a pilgrimage to Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, attending every single match of the Border–Gavaskar Trophy.



Rashid Khan by Jafar Haand (Bloomsbury):
From the dusty streets of Nangarhar to the grandest cricket stadiums in the world, Rashid Khan's journey is nothing short of extraordinary. This book captures the grit, determination, and brilliance behind one of the most exciting players in modern cricket.



Getting Out by Jonathan B Campion (Pitch Publishing):
The remarkable story of how Ukraine's cricketers helped the people around them to escape from Russia's invasion in 2022, including first-hand accounts of the war. The book holds many light-hearted stories, from the players who had to be freed from a police cell before a game, to the biofuel developer who became Ukraine's first professional cricketer.

Mood Board *is a column that presents thematic lists of books on hot-button topics.*

THE HERITAGE SHELF

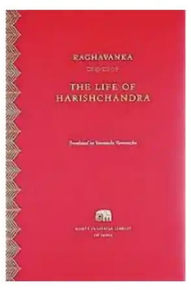
Can classics speak truth to power?

These timeless works reveal subtle truths about the inner workings of our very being, writes Vanamala Viswanatha

Classics are celebrated the world over for their power to delineate timeless and universal truths about the human condition. But, being imbricated in the dominant ideology of their world, and fostered largely by royal patronage, can classics really go against the grain and speak truth to power? Can they speak truth to a post-truth socio-political order like ours? Unlike science or scriptures, which explore objective or propositional truth using the language of royal decree (Prabhu Samhita), literature which depicts experiential truth appeals to the hearts of readers. In fact, the experience of reading literature is likened to "Kantha Samhita" — an intimate, affectionate communication from the beloved. Drawing the reader into the vortex of specific human struggles, classics reveal subtle truths about the inner workings of our very being.

Harishchandra with Vishwamitra.
(PIC COURTESY: EVELYN PAUL/WIKIMEDIA)

Kannada literary culture, with its unbroken and documented history of over 1,500 years, is replete with classics that uphold the enduring values of truth and non-violence against the dominant Kshatriya ethos of war and valour. Kannada's adikavi, the primal poet, Pampa of the 10th century, celebrates our common humanity in his rewriting of the Mahabharata by shining a kindly light on the character of Karna, who is discriminated against based on his caste.



In 'Adipurana', his re-creation of Jinasena's foundational Sanskrit work from the Jaina tradition, Pampa affirms, "Isn't all of humanity but one caste (jaati)?" This epic narrates the story of two mighty brothers, Bharata and Bahubali, who go to war with each other to establish their sovereignty. But, in keeping with the Jaina tenet of non-violence, their learned ministers advise them: "Considering the welfare of the subjects, the army, and the country, we suggest you have a limited Dharma yuddha (righteous battle). Apart from Drishti yuddha (battle of staring), Jala yuddha (battle in water), and Malla yuddha (wrestling), there should be no combat with munitions." Such wise counsel, so rare to come by! The taller and stronger Bahubali, who wins the first two battles, is about to pulverise Bharata. And, in that moment, Bahubali realises the transience of power, forsakes his kingdom, and turns to penance.

'Vaddaradhane' (Jane Tales of Moksha, Murty Classical Library of India, Harvard University Press, in press), yet another Jaina work of the early 10th century, recounts the dramatic tales of kings and wealthy merchants, who realise the essentially impermanent nature of human existence, and in a moment of epiphany, turn away from the ephemeral Rajyalakshmi or Dhanalakshmi to the eternal Mokshalakshmi. Consider the story of King Harishchandra, known for his veritas. It is a story that inspired Gandhi to make truth the core of his political philosophy. The Life of Harishchandra (Murty Classical Library of India, Harvard University Press, 2017), my translation of Raghavanka's 13th-century Kannada kavya, tells the riveting tale of the dispossession and deprivation of King Harishchandra, who suffered for — and survived through — his commitment to truth. In this kavya, keeping one's word constitutes truth; conversely, going back on one's word amounts to untruth. This notion of truth goes back to Basavanna, who spearheaded the Veerashaiva movement in the 12th century: "If your deed does not follow your word, would Kudala Sangama Deva (Shiva) be pleased?"

Yet, even a pious king like Harishchandra is not spared. Once, the king, at the end of an exhausting hunt, is entertained by two maidens from the untouchable holeya caste, with their divine singing. A pleased king wants to gift them his jewellery. Refusing it, they express their desire to marry him. When he spurns them, the maidens confront him about his caste pride: "*The ears that enjoyed every note of our music are not defiled;/ The eyes that feasted on our shapely form are not defiled;/ The mouth that acclaimed our art is not defiled;/ The nose that smelled the fragrance of our bodies wafted by the gentle wind is not defiled./ How is it that only our touch is defiling?/ How is it that, among the five composite senses,/ One is inferior and the other four superior?*"

Raghavanka's text enacts a shift in perspective from seeing caste as a feature that attaches to one by birth to understanding caste as something emerging from one's words and deeds, equating godliness with truthfulness.

But do you hear the devil's advocate grumbling: Can classics which uphold the ideals of non-violence, truth, and compassion make sense in a society full of violence and changing narratives? Can classics with their verities and certitudes offer us an inner moral compass to act in a world where facts are constantly challenged? Can classics with their complex textuality help us develop a questioning mind to resist 'fake' narratives? Can classics foster empathy in us?

Well, try reading them!

The Heritage Shelf *is a monthly column from the Murty Classical Library of India, published by Harvard University Press, presenting India's greatest literary works and the enduring traditions that shaped them.*

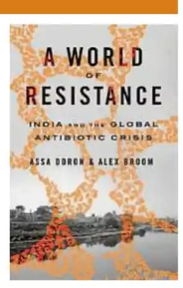
The author is a bilingual scholar and translator who has taught, published, and promoted Indian literatures in translation.

READ OF THE WEEK

The discovery of antibiotics was one of the most significant medical breakthroughs of the 20th century, dramatically increasing human life spans. Yet today, with antibiotic-resistant superbugs implicated in as many deaths as HIV/AIDS and malaria combined, the limits of these miracle drugs have become alarmingly clear.

At the ground zero of the growing crisis is India, one of the world's largest consumers of antibiotics and a powerhouse in pharmaceutical manufacturing. In A World of Resistance, Assa Doron and Alex Broom draw on years of fieldwork in hospitals, in pharmacies, and on factory farms to examine the enormous social and environmental costs of overreliance on antibiotics. They show how an overtaxed healthcare system with limited oversight, widespread use of antibiotics in industrial agriculture, and the incessant dumping of pharmaceutical waste into waterways have created the ideal conditions for antibiotic-resistant microbes to grow.

Assa Doron is Professor of Anthropology and South Asia at the Australian National University. He is the coauthor of Waste of a Nation: Garbage and Growth in India and The Great Indian Phone Book: How the Cheap Cell Phone Changes Business, Politics, and Daily Life. Alex Broom is Professor of Sociology at the University of Sydney.



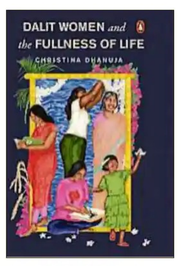
Drawing from her own complicated relationship with her grandmother, a matriarch who often shamed her, Christina Dhanuja seeks to reimagine the traditional family system as a safe space for Dalit women, where they can breathe and be themselves

BEYOND BINARIES

DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

Dalit families make up Dalit communities. But families, in the manner they exist today and the ones that some of us belong to, can be patriarchal, heteronormative hotbeds. They can be sites of sexual violence, internalized casteism, sibling rivalry, emotional injury and unresolved trauma. Given my complicated relationship with the traditional family system — both as a concept and by experience — the eulogizing of Dalit families hasn't always rung true for me. Unlike Suraj Yengde, who in his book *Caste Matters*, writes this of his grandmother:

'My grandma's purity of love is a continuation of thousands of years of history. Her gentle touch on my face, her palms cupping my cheeks, and her eyes illuminated with tears are a window to my ancestors, whose blood in me is a proof of Dalit love.'



I share no such devotion to either my grandmothers. I remember my maternal grandmother — the one we were slightly close to — as an extremely sharp-tongued, strong-willed woman, who showered praises on men and hurled abuses at women. She was particularly nasty to young girls, including her granddaughters, slut-shaming them at every turn. She lacked the warmth of my friends' grandmothers and had no kind word to say.

So, as I was growing up, I felt justified in dismissing family-based systems as nothing but stifling. 'Of course, Dalit families are violent to their women,' I would bleat. *Dalit men are the worst and Dalit aunties the most regressive*. Only to realize that these weren't perceived by the world as just personal opinions. They served a more sinister purpose.

Two narratives

For instance, mainstream discourses of the last few years, have tended to be wildly presumptuous about Dalit women's experiences in Dalit families. On the one hand, we have had people regurgitate opinions on how patriarchy amongst Dalits is considerably more democratic than what exists amongst upper castes. *Dalit women have more access to public spaces. Dalit women are more assertive.* And on the other, we have had savarnas selectively use our very valid and real experiences of familial dysfunction as an excuse to ridicule us. They have upheld the perception that Dalit women are mere victims, lacking personal agency in their relationships with Dalit men and elders.

Neither of these narratives is entirely true, nor fair to the complexity of Dalit lives. And perhaps they contribute to why writers like Yengde feel the need to exceptionalize Dalit love — to the extent of describing it as a 'powerful antidote to the malady of caste'. *If only.*

DALIT HISTORY MONTH

While academic and social-media spaces abound with critiques of Yengde, Illaiah, Geetha, Chakravarti and Guru, what I'm interested in is how these opposing narratives are helpful in constructing communities and families that are Dalit-women-centric.

What purpose do these narratives fulfil other than specimenize Dalit women for the sake of 'insights', with no resultant shifts in culture or structures? Are feminists who study Dalit women and pronounce them victims for staying in patriarchal institutions willing to offer reliable alternatives? Are they willing to do more than just critique? Are Dalit ideologues who aggrandize Dalit families for being 'democratic' willing to interrogate and eliminate the insidious forms of brahminical patriarchy active in our communities? Or would they only mock, deny and feign innocence? Are Dalit men who glorify their mothers and grandmothers willing to treat other Dalit women with respect and deference? Are Dalit women who fight for their families' honour willing to see how they too are proponents of brahminical patriarchy?

My grandmother passed away when she was ninety. It felt like the end of an era, and to my surprise, I was even a little sad. Ammachi had spent most of her adult life as a schoolteacher and, in addition to leading women's fellowships and vacation Bible schools in churches across north Tamil Nadu, she was the mother of five children. She was known for her magic in the garden and kitchen. She dried and pressed coconuts to make hair oil. She soaked raw mangoes to make pickles. She grew kannakabaram and roses and jackfruits and drumsticks, and sat on the parapet of the blue house, yelling at passers-by. She was, all things considered, a matriarch — the one who got things done, who held the anchor for a Dalit Christian family, and who played human before she could play mother and wife. Loving her was not easy, but neither was losing her.

How the family must evolve

Existing in this paradoxical third space feels more authentic to me than borrowing into polarizing narratives. Feeling gratitude towards our families for having got us far while feeling indignant about the trauma they've inflicted on us is as real as it can get. It may not be ideal, but it is also why many of us run to our families during crises, even though we have experienced the worst at their hands.

That said, it is precisely because of this predicament that families must become safe and sturdy spaces for Dalit women. Where Dalit men actively divest from their subscriptions to misogyny and false notions of masculinity. Where their journeys of self-determination, critical as they are, don't demand the tearing down of Dalit women. Where Dalit women aren't trained as little girls to disregard their inner voices, coerced into obedience, and subjected to relentless punditry. Where their pain and hunger are attended to. Where family honour isn't prized over their happiness. Where Dalit women can breathe and be, in freedom and rage. Where their fullness is not optional. Where comfort and solace are not conditional. Where there is enough love to spur — and cushion — defiance.

(This is an edited excerpt from Dalit Women and the Fullness of Life By Christina Dhanuja with permission from Penguin Random House India.)

DECODED

Pangender or pansexual?

Discussions around gender identity are constantly evolving; gender vocabulary is also expanding in order to aptly describe an individual's experience and feelings. The word pangender entered the Oxford English Dictionary in 2022. A popular dating app introduced pangender as one of the gender options as early as 2016 in some countries, and in 2018 in India. The term is said to have first been used in the 1990s in early online communities dedicated to gender identity. The usage appeared in the preface to the 1992 novel, *The Flock*, by Joan Frances Casey and Lynn Wilson; it was used to describe individuals with dissociative identity disorder (characterised by at least two or more states that guide an individual's behavioural traits).

Pangender means having a gender identity that is not restricted to one gender. A pangender person may feel that their identity can include every possible gender at the same time, including binary and nonbinary. Pangender, however, should not be confused with pansexual, though they both have the 'pan' prefix. The latter is the attraction one may feel towards people from all genders, irrespective of their identity, whether sexual or gender-based.

How different is pangender from genderfluidity? While both pangender and genderfluid individuals don't conform to the traditional gender identity notions, the main difference is that gender fluid individuals feel that their identity shifts over time while pangender people identify with multiple genders at the same time.

Agender is a term that carries the exact opposite meaning of pangender, wherein an individual doesn't identify with any specific gender.

Curated by Savitha Karthik
*(**Decoded** demystifies gender concepts and breaks them down into easy-to-understand language.)*

Travel

Himalayan stronghold

Kangra Fort, steeped in legend and history, offers breathtaking vistas of the entire valley, apart from the snow-capped peaks of the Dhauladhar range, writes Meenakshi J

A misty avalanche sweeps across the Kangra valley after an inexorable downpour, as our car winds through the serpentine roads of McLeodganj. Nearing the ancient town of Trigarta and modern-day Kangra, I catch a glimpse of the fort, its origins steeped in legend, tracing back to the Mahabharata era and the Trigarta kingdom of Raja Bhum Chand — whose rule once stretched across Multan, Hoshiarpur, and Jalandhar. From afar, the once-impregnable stronghold seems to sit unbothered, its battle-scarred ramparts now softened by clouds that appear to soothe its wounds.

With no official guides or historians on site, we turn to a prepaid audio guide. Plugging in my earphones, I step through the Ranjit Singh Gate, the wooden-planked main entrance flanked by a timeworn water tank. Just beyond it stands the two-storeyed Ahani Darwaza, leading to a narrow fleet of stone steps. The stones echo with stories as we begin an hour-long walk through time.

A little further up, sculptures of a portly Ganesha, a serene Durga, a flying Hanuman, and a curious image of a black buck with a flying scarf greet us before we turn toward the Amiri Darwaza. These carvings feel more neoteric, and likely part of the extensive restoration the fort has seen in recent years. It is a charming piece of trivia to know that the black buck with the fluttering scarf was the royal insignia of the Katoch dynasty. And rightly so, for the Kangra Fort was raised by the indelible Katochs.

Standing tall

Believed to be built by Maharaja Susharma Chandra, who fought on the side of the Kauravas, Kangra Fort stands perched on a hilly spur at the confluence of the Banganga and Manjhi rivers. It is considered the largest and oldest Himalayan fort still standing.

Mentioned in the journals of Alexander the Great, this restored fort remains a jewel of the Trigarta kingdom. "It is said that whoever could gain control of Kangra Fort controlled the entire valley," says Indu Katoch, a friend based out of Dharamshala and member of the present-day Katoch community, who came along with me.

Taking in the ambience of the fetching green fort, with the scent of petrichor pervading the air, we pass through one gate after another, each named either after invaders or the materials used in its construction. For me, these gates serve as reminders of the Katoch rulers, who withstood a litany of invaders, from the Ghaznavids to the Mughals and the British. Eventually, the fort fell, not to an army, but to the devastating earthquake that shook the Kangra valley in 1905.

My heart sinks at the sight of the defaced Pratihara-style statues of Ganga and Yamuna, flanking either side of the narrow Darshini Darwaza.

This entrance opens into a temple complex courtyard, divided in two by a flight of stairs that lead further up to the palace ruins through the Mahal Darwaza.

On one side of the courtyard stands a 400-year-old sacred fig tree, beside rows of small rooms and an open space strewn with beautifully carved amalakas, stone blocks with sockets, lintels, pillars, and thresholds. The other half of the courtyard holds only the rear walls of a Nagara-style Lakshmi Narayan temple, which remains the pièce de résistance. Its profusely carved and intricately chiselled stonework offers a stunning backdrop for shutterbugs.

Ancient temple

The complex also houses the oldest temple dedicated to Ambika Mata, the clan deity of the Katoch dynasty. The royal family still visits the fort annually for religious ceremonies. Beside this shrine is a Jaina temple dedicated to Tirthankar Adinath ji, believed to house a statue sculpted during his lifetime — a rare relic. The Mahal Darwaza opens into a two-storeyed structure, with a series of roofless rooms to the left and the remnants of a once-beautiful Sheesh Mahal to the right.

Sadly, all that remains of the Sheesh Mahal is an open lawn that now serves as a vantage point to gaze across the river at what were once the fort's old battlegrounds. As we climb the stairs and step onto an open area, we stumble upon an underground water tank, likely part of an ingenious rainwater harvesting system.

The network of canals here appears to connect to the fort's main tank, a clever way to secure water supply during sieges. This is flanked by arches and room remains, their weathered stones still echoing with silence.

View of the Dhauladhar

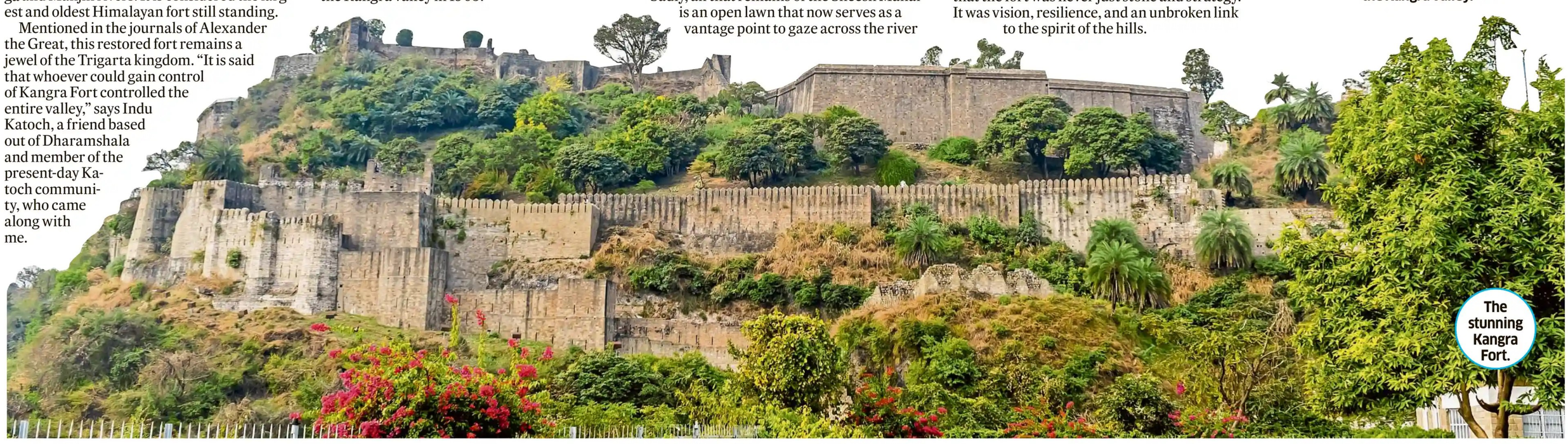
A little further to the right stands a spacious, polygonal bastion with watch towers, strategically perched at the edge of the promontory to monitor movement across the valley. On a clear day, this bastion offers sweeping views of the snow-clad Dhauladhars, the prison caves tucked away on the opposite hill, the river confluence before they part ways again, and breathtaking vistas of the valley sprawled below. Unlike the pomp and glamour of many Rajasthani forts, Kangra Fort, stripped of the riches that once lured invaders, now stands like a battle-worn soldier — wounded, but proud.

With 23 bastions, seven gates, a four-kilometre-long wall, two rivers, and cliffs all around, the fort still stands inviolable, daring any would-be treasure hunter to try their luck. As I stood at the edge of the polygonal bastion, a breeze brushing my cheeks, I was reminded that the fort was never just stone and strategy. It was vision, resilience, and an unbroken link to the spirit of the hills.

The rear wall of the Lakshmi Narayan temple, showcasing the Nagara-style stonework that's the highlight of the fort.

The bastion with watch towers.

View of the Dhauladhar range from the Kangra valley.



The stunning Kangra Fort.

WHAT'S COOKING

MISO MAGIC

Want to add that savoury, umami flavour to your dishes? Miso is one ingredient widely used in Japanese and Chinese cuisine. The word miso essentially means fermented beans (typically soybean) in Japanese, and is used in the form of a paste. The other ingredients that go into miso paste include sea salt and grains like barley.

What does miso paste go into? It goes into a range of dishes, from broths and stews to soups and dressings. Miso can also be used in pickled veggies such as sliced cucumbers, daikon (radish), or carrots. Toss the paste into noodles and pastas. Thinking of desserts? How about miso ice cream or miso caramel? Or even miso chocolate and brownies?

Miso comes in three widely known varieties: white miso, which is also known as shiro miso, and is slightly sweet; red miso, or aka miso, which is fermented for a longer time than the white one, and awase miso, which is a brownish paste, and has a flavour profile that's a bit of both white and red miso.

While adding depth of flavour to any dish, miso also comes with many health benefits. It is protein and vitamin-rich, boosts gut health, and digestion as well. However, miso paste has a high level of sodium so if you are watching your salt intake, it helps to stay mindful.

*Curated by Savitha Karthik (**What's Cooking** shines the spotlight on a single ingredient, its nutritional qualities and the ways in which you can use it.)*

Miso paste is used in many dishes, from noodles to soups and pastas.

SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

India has many flavourful ingredients, whether it is mahua flowers, kokum, gondhoraj lime or betel leaf. Rather than take a widely known cocktail and Indianise it, how about using indigenous flavours to create spirits that are rooted in the land, asks Parag A Shastry

Mahua spirit, kokum reduction, and a dash of lime zest go into this cocktail. ALL PHOTOS AND COCKTAIL RECIPES BY AUTHOR

Get a cocktail in Mumbai or Delhi today, and chances are you are sipping something that didn't really start here, gin and tonic, whisky and soda, vodka and citrus, rum and cola. They are dependable, easy to recognise, easy to go back to. But if you were to open a kitchen cupboard in almost any Indian home, you would find the beginnings of something far more interesting, ingredients rooted in memory, habit, and place, in ways no imported format can quite match.

India has never struggled with flavour. If anything, it has always understood ingredients instinctively. What to soak, roast, dry, or ferment. What cools the body, what balances heat, what works in summer and what carries you through winter. I still think about summer afternoons at my grandmother's house, when a steel glass of something slightly tangy would just appear, and you knew, without asking, that it would cool you down. That was surely not experimentation; that was instinct.

And yet, when it comes to what we drink today, we often start from somewhere else. We start with a structure that is not really ours. Indian mixology has come a long way in the last decade. Bars across the country are more confident, menus more thoughtful, techniques more refined. But we still borrow formats, structures, even language, and try to slot Indian ingredients into them. Kokum becomes a souring agent. Tamarind becomes a twist. Jaggery steps in for sugar and suddenly feels "different." These ingredients were never meant to play supporting roles; they were always meant to lead.

Flavours and their origin stories

At some point, I found myself thinking less about recipes and more about where flavours come from. This thinking became the theme of my book, which is not really about cocktails as much as it is about the stories behind ingredients. Because in India, flavour is never isolated, it is always tied to a place, a habit, or a memory.

Mahua isn't just a spirit. It is those early mornings in forest regions, where flowers are gathered before the sun gets too high. Kokum is not just acidity; it takes me back to Ratnagiri, where it quietly exists as part of everyday life. Tamarind is not just tang; it feels like Guntur, where it is used instinctively, without measurement. Jaggery is not just a sweetening agent; it reminds me of places like Gwalior, where it holds its own in ways sugar never quite could. Curry leaf is the crackle when it hits hot oil, the beginning of something real. Betel leaf is the pause at the end of a meal, lingering a little longer than expected.

When you start to see ingredients this way, they stop being functional. They become stories.

Take mahua. It has always been around, sometimes overlooked, sometimes misunderstood. It has a natural softness and a quiet sweetness. A drink built around mahua, with a lift of gondhoraj lime and a touch of black pepper, is not a variation of something else. It feels complete in itself.

Kokum doesn't behave like lime or lemon. It is softer, slower, and it lingers. Tamarind brings both tang and depth; it does not just brighten a drink, it rather grounds it. Pair it with a darker spirit and a hint of jaggery, and suddenly you have something that feels less like a cocktail and more like a memory.

Jaggery adds warmth, not a clean, polished sweetness, but something deeper, more textured. Curry leaf, when lightly bruised or infused, brings in a note that is unmistakably Indian without overwhelming the drink. Betel leaf, used carefully, creates a pause; it makes you think for a second before the next sip.

When a drink truly belongs

What really changes things isn't just the ingredient; it is where you begin. Instead of asking how to "Indianise" a known cocktail, the better question is: what does this ingredient want to become? Start there, and the drink doesn't feel adapted; it feels like it belongs. You can imagine a warm evening with a kokum-based drink in hand, its deep colour catching the light, a gentle tartness rising before the first sip, everything rounded rather than sharp. Or a slower drink where tamarind and jaggery come together, leaving behind a feeling of warmth. These are not recipes; they are guiding directions.

India does not need to catch up with global mixology. It is sitting on a rich flavour system that's layered, complex, and emotional. It is not about availability. These ingredients are everywhere. What has been missing is attention. That is beginning to change through a renewed focus on ingredients, their origins, and the stories they carry. Some initiatives are part of that shift, bringing the conversation back without forcing it. It is often called innovation, but it is about shaping the drink instead of just decorating it.

A cocktail of Gondhoraj lime, Indian gin and a simple syrup or lime cordial.

A cocktail of betel leaf-infused vodka, rose and fennel syrup, lime and soda.

Tequila, tamarind pulp, jaggery syrup, and chaat masala go into this cocktail.

(The writer is author of Madira: India's Forgotten Spirits and Cocktail Revival, published by Rupa Publications.)

This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to promote or condone the abuse of alcohol. Alcohol should be consumed responsibly and in moderation by individuals of legal drinking age.

Healing notes

Music-based interventions are used among individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Structured music helps in regulating emotions, reducing anxiety, and creating an alternative pathway for interaction, writes Dr Geetha R Bhat

Navin is ten years old now. But when he was a toddler, his parents began noticing that something was different. He avoided eye contact. He did not respond to his name. He did not begin speaking like other children his age. The soft hugs, playful conversations, and shared laughter his mother had imagined slowly gave way to confusion and concern. When Navin was later diagnosed with autism, his mother did what most parents do. She searched for every possible form of support and along with other therapies, she decided to try music therapy.

Sustained progress

The first few sessions were not easy. Navin constantly made sounds. He repeated not only parts of songs, but also sounds from the environment: a dog barking outside, a train passing by, the whirring of a fan. He would echo the last word of almost every sentence spoken to him. He found it difficult to sit for more than five minutes. There was no eye contact, and he often cried when overwhelmed. As a therapist, I knew that progress would take time. Instead of stopping his repetitive sounds, I began gently shaping them into rhythm and melody. If he echoed something, I responded musically. If he vocalised randomly, I tried to bring it into a pattern. The aim was not to force interaction, but to build one small emotional connection at a time.

Navin and his mother came regularly every week. Slowly, small changes appeared. After about six sessions, Navin began turning his attention toward me when I sang. He started responding more to the musical phrases than to the background noises around him. Instead of repeating every sound he heard, he began repeating mainly the musical parts. After several more sessions, he was able to sing a short composition without losing rhythm or tune when I gave him a simple count. This showed that his attention, listening skills, and coordination were improving. Today, after two full years, Navin can learn two or three short compositions in a single session. He looks forward to coming. He participates with other children. He maintains attention for much longer. Music has become not just sound for him, but a way to connect.

Navin's journey reminds us that healing does not always occur dramatically, but often unfolds slowly, note by note and rhythm by rhythm, as what begins as scattered sound gradually transforms into a shared song where connection begins to emerge, reflecting a deeper truth about the relationship between music and the human brain. Music first enters as perception — vibration received by the ear and organised by the nervous system, which constantly searches for patterns.

In Indian classical music, pattern is intentional: the steady drone of the tanpura provides a stable auditory ground, rhythmic cycles create predictability, and melody unfolds within structure, allowing the listener to anticipate what comes next.

Music as engagement

Music-based interventions are widely used with those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and have shown benefits across emotional, social, and behavioural domains. Studies and clinical observations report improvements in self-esteem, reduced anxiety, and more positive peer engagement. Although many autistic children face challenges in language and communication, their ability to perceive musical elements such as pitch, rhythm, and melody is often preserved and sometimes a relative strength. This responsiveness makes music a natural and effective point of engagement, offering an alternative pathway for interaction that does not rely solely on verbal communication.

Structured music, particularly classical music with steady and predictable rhythms, can also support emotional regulation. Predictable rhythmic and melodic patterns stabilise the nervous system, which is especially beneficial for children with sensory sensitivities and difficulty filtering environmental stimuli. These anticipated patterns create a sense of order and safety, reducing anxiety and minimising behavioural distress in challenging situations.

For adolescents, music holds therapeutic value because of its close link to peer identity and social culture, making engagement through music feel less confrontational, more relatable, and an effective medium for leisure and connection. It is often said, "Where words fail, music speaks." For many of the children I work with, words do fail them daily. Some struggle to express themselves verbally. Others find it difficult to process the constant stream of language directed at them. I often reflect on how overwhelming it must feel to be surrounded by speech one cannot fully understand or respond to. In such moments, music becomes a relief. A rhythmic exchange, a shared melodic phrase, a pause held together, these become conversation. The connection often feels more immediate than words and in this shared musical space, there is no failure, only participation.

(The author is a psychologist, veena and vocal artist, and dedicated music therapist, who employs Indian classical music-based interventions (MBI) for autism, cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, dyslexia, and cancer survivors.)

GRIEF AND ADDICTION

That numb feeling

RASHIKKHA RA IYER

Over the last few years, I found myself drinking cup after cup of coffee each day. At first, I blamed my chaotic eating habits. As a busy working professional with a full calendar, I assumed the caffeine helped me stay sharp. Yet the intensity of my dependence remained a mystery — one I only began to understand recently, as I started doing deeper healing work. Living in the UK, the way I learned about my nan's passing was far from ideal. It was just as the world was emerging from the grip of COVID. I had only just secured a new job, and travelling home to say goodbye wasn't an option. The lack of closure settled into me quietly, almost imperceptibly.

My nan always believed that a cup of coffee was "a hug in a mug" that could make any problem feel lighter. Growing up, she would make coffee for me whenever I felt overwhelmed. I thought it was the caffeine doing the work, but in truth, it was her presence.

Only recently did I realise that my unresolved grief had woven itself into my caffeine habit. Drinking coffee made me feel closer to her. It gave me a sense of resilience — the same resilience she spent years instilling in me.

Grief and addiction are often treated as separate struggles, but research suggests they are deeply intertwined. When people face the end of something — whether the death of a loved one, the collapse of a relationship, or the loss of identity — they often turn to substances or compulsive behaviours to cope.

Fleeting relief

When people turn to substances to cope with grief, it is labelled as self-destructive. More than an urge to harm themselves, it is usually a desperate attempt to quiet the pain — even if fleetingly. As individuals move through the stages of grief, they experience a deep loss of control. Their minds become crowded with intrusive memories, their focus fractures, and emotional chaos takes over. In that turmoil, a substance can offer what feels like a rare moment of silence, a brief sense of stability. That relief can reinforce such behaviour.

Addiction carries its own form of grief. It can unravel finances, fracture trust, strain relationships, erode health, and close doors to opportunities. Unresolved grief—especially grief that was dismissed, minimised, or never acknowledged — can linger for years. Those who were taught to "be strong," or who experienced loss before they had the language to understand it, may carry emotional wounds that remain unnamed. Addiction can then become a coping mechanism.

Healing from addiction requires far more than stepping away from the behaviour itself. Specialists emphasise that true recovery involves tending to the grief beneath the surface — rebuilding trust, learning to navigate difficult emotions, and allowing space for the pain that was once avoided. Grief cannot be "fixed," but it can be witnessed, held, and supported. And in that safety, something shifts. As one support-group facilitator put it, "When people feel safe enough to express their grief, the grip of addiction often begins to loosen."

Compassion plays a crucial role in this process. Instead of asking why someone doesn't just stop, a more meaningful question is: What pain are they carrying that makes stopping feel impossible.

As communities confront rising rates of addiction, recognising the profound link between grief and coping behaviours becomes essential, to build empathy and suppory.

(The author is a multidisciplinary professional and practicing psychotherapist who works in the UK.)

MUSEUM MATTERS

A palace of many worlds

Salar Jung Museum is kicking off its 75th anniversary celebrations with Rumale's Bengaluru blooms, which are sitting pretty amid Hyderabad's historic galleries, writes Asra Mavad

The moment you step into the Salar Jung Museum, located right in the middle of Hyderabad's bustling old city, the air feels cooler, quieter, as if the noise of the city has been carefully folded away.

Your footsteps echo faintly against polished floors, and your eyes wander before your mind can catch up. It's the small things that pull you in: a delicate curve in an ivory carving, the fine cracks in an ancient clock face, the way light settles softly on glass cases. You pause without realising, drawn to miniature paintings no bigger than your palm, each bursting with impossible detail.

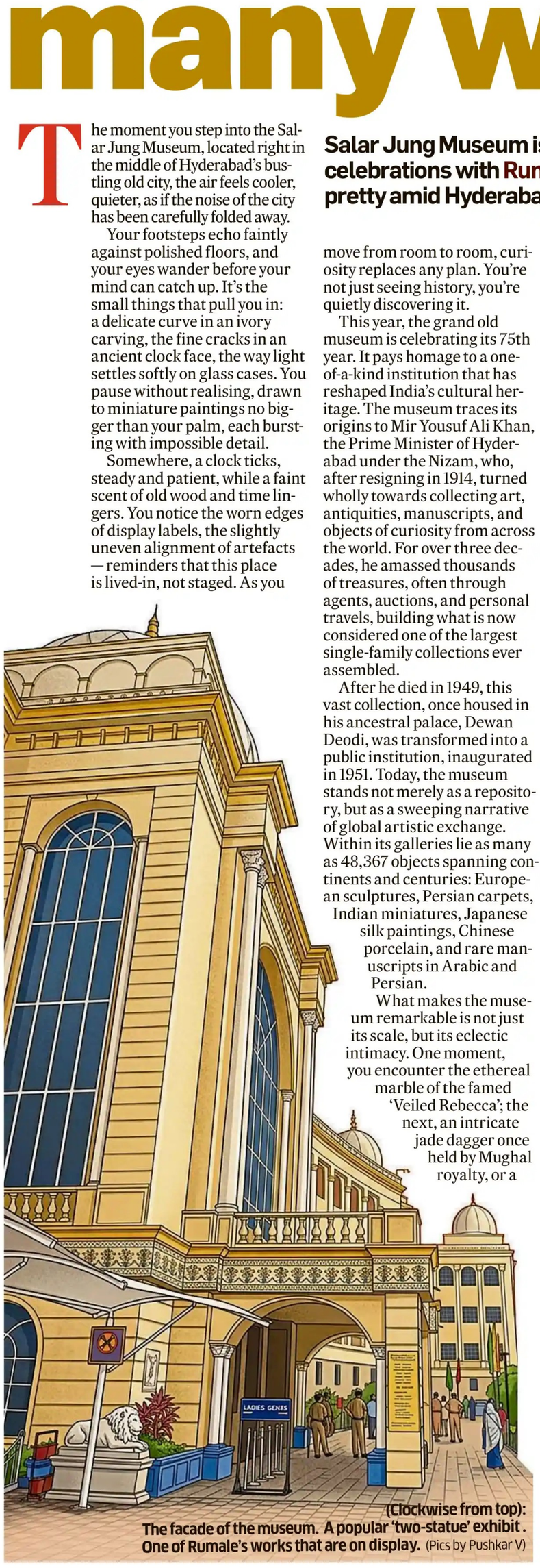
Somewhere, a clock ticks, steady and patient, while a faint scent of old wood and time lingers. You notice the worn edges of display labels, the slightly uneven alignment of artefacts — reminders that this place is lived-in, not staged. As you move from room to room, curiosity replaces any plan. You're not just seeing history, you're quietly discovering it.

This year, the grand old museum is celebrating its 75th year. It pays homage to a one-of-a-kind institution that has reshaped India's cultural heritage. The museum traces its origins to Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad under the Nizam, who, after resigning in 1914, turned wholly towards collecting art, antiquities, manuscripts, and objects of curiosity from across the world. For over three decades, he amassed thousands of treasures, often through agents, auctions, and personal travels, building what is now considered one of the largest single-family collections ever assembled.

After he died in 1949, this vast collection, once housed in his ancestral palace, Dewan Deodi, was transformed into a public institution, inaugurated in 1951. Today, the museum stands not merely as a repository, but as a sweeping narrative of global artistic exchange. Within its galleries lie as many as 48,367 objects spanning continents and centuries: European sculptures, Persian carpets, Indian miniatures, Japanese silk paintings, Chinese porcelain, and rare manuscripts in Arabic and Persian.

What makes the museum remarkable is not just its scale, but its eclectic intimacy. One moment, you encounter the ethereal marble of the famed 'Veiled Rebecca'; the next, an intricate jade dagger once held by Mughal royalty, or a clock that springs to life with mechanical precision. Each gallery feels like a fragment of a larger, wandering story. It's a testament to life itself, unbound by geography yet united by human craftsmanship.

Beyond its exhibits, the museum unfolds as a living institution: dozens of galleries, a vast reference library, conservation labs, and quiet reading spaces all contribute to its enduring relevance. It is less a static archive and more a dialogue across time—a grounded reality where the personal passion of one collector continues to invite generations into a shared, ever-expanding world of art and history.



(Clockwise from top): The facade of the museum. A popular 'two-statue' exhibit. One of Rumale's works that are on display. (Pics by Pushkar V)

Trees, flowers and more

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the museum is preparing a year-long itinerary filled with rotating exhibitions, lectures, cultural performances, and much more. To kick off the celebrations, the opening exhibition features the works of Rumale Chennabasaviah. With 84 items on display — from paintings to sketches, and even some of Rumale's personal belongings — the exhibition acts as a thoughtful bridge between Bengaluru and Hyderabad, two cities bound by layered histories and evolving artistic identities.

Known for his fondness for Bengaluru's trees, Rumale devoted his work to capturing the living, breathing landscape of Karnataka.

While you'll find hints of Van Gogh and Monet in his work, his canvases are deeply rooted in place, filled with lush gulmohur-lined avenues, quiet parks, and fleeting seasonal blooms, rendered with energetic brushstrokes and a striking refusal to overwork colour, often letting it blend directly on the canvas.

What makes this exhibition significant is not just its artistic merit, but its movement across regions, shared Shabala Kabe, who helps her brother Sanjay Kabe in the running of the Rumale Art House in Bengaluru. "The exhibition showcases the beauty of Bengaluru through the eyes of Rumale and how we have blooms almost throughout the year." she said.

Rumale's work, long associated with Bengaluru's visual memory, now inhabits the historic galleries of Hyderabad, creating a dialogue between the southern cultural centres. His paintings, at once documentary and deeply personal, carry with them the textures of one city into another. In doing so, the exhibition transforms the museum into a meeting ground — one where Hyderabad encounters Bengaluru not through geography, but through colour, memory, and the enduring language of art.

The museum is keen on bringing in similar collaborations throughout the year, shared Joyoti Roy, Curator (Education) at the museum. "The focus will be on marking the milestone with intellectually engaging programmes, including lectures and collaborations that bring together historians, scholars, and cultural practitioners. We're also planning to release a book on the museum," she said, adding that the idea is to use the anniversary not just for celebration, but also to deepen public engagement with the museum's legacy and collections.

Although the original Dewan Deodi no longer stands, the modern galleries of the Salar Jung Museum still carry its spirit. As you move through its halls, the objects, light, and quiet continuity of history gently recreate the feeling of stepping back into another time.

Inaugurated on April 15, the works of Rumale will be on display at the museum till May 25.

DAB HAND

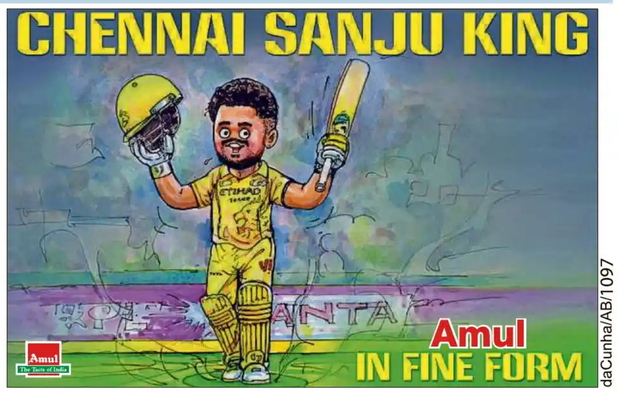
Carving a name for herself

South Korean sculptor Kim Yun Shin wields a chainsaw with a quiet focus, refining a craft the 91-year-old has honed over decades spent far from home.

Long overlooked in her home country, Kim has more recently gained recognition as a pioneering artist, featuring in a sweeping retrospective at South Korea's esteemed Hoam Museum of Art. The solo exhibition, titled "Two Be One", is the institution's first since its founding in 1982 to spotlight a woman artist, and includes some of her signature abstract sculptures hewn from hardwood with her tool of choice.

"The saw is my body," Kim told *AFP* in her studio in Paju, a city northwest of the capital Seoul. Hoam is exhibiting about 170 of Kim's sculptures and paintings, reflecting her reverence for nature and blending spirituality with meditations on existence, material and form. Born in 1935 in Wonsan, now in North Korea, she grew up playing alone in the countryside. Kim saw her older brother disappear after joining the independence movement, and pine trees in her town were cut down for fuel. "Those trees were my friends," she said. At 48, drawn by the abundant trees in Argentina, she made the unusual choice to move to the South American nation. She ended up staying for 40 years, taking up chainsaw carving. She returned to South Korea after a major 2023 solo show in Seoul that propelled her to the Venice Biennale the following year.

AFP



SOTERICA *A monthly exploratory infographic for the always curious*

With the recent success of Artemis II, Nasa has launched humanity's bid to return to the Moon – this time, to stay. So we thought it fitting to revisit the mission that started it all, Apollo 11, and dig out some of its strangest, quirkiest details.

THE ODD TRUTHS BEHIND THE FIRST MOON LANDING

Birthday behind glass

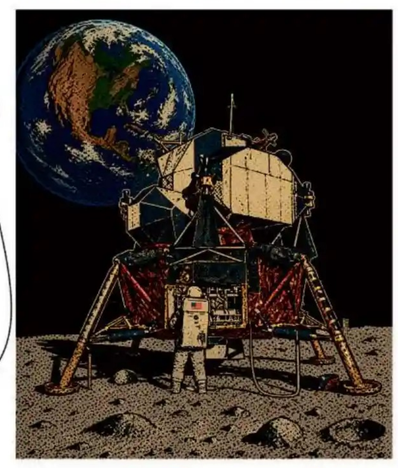
After Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin returned to Earth on July 24, 1969, they were made to remain in quarantine for 21 days as a precaution against "Moon germs". Scientists didn't know that the Moon was entirely lifeless. If a harmful Moon microorganism had been brought back accidentally, it needed to be isolated.

So Armstrong celebrated his 39th birthday (August 5) in quarantine. He cut a surprise vanilla cake in an enclosure, with his wife and others clapping from behind a glass partition. The practice of quarantining returning astronauts was stopped after Apollo 14, once it had been proven beyond doubt that there was no life on the Moon.

Pics courtesy: Nasa

Landing on unknown ground

Apollo Mission scientists didn't know how loose and deep the Moon's soil was, or whether it could support the weight of a spacecraft. So, the lunar lander (Eagle) was provided with disc-shaped foot pads to prevent it from sinking too deep into the Moon's surface. After all, it was vital for the lander to lift off smoothly for the return journey.



Eleven men who couldn't feel dizzy

Before humans could be sent to space, scientists needed to understand how the body responds to weightlessness and motion. So, in the late 1950s, Nasa recruited 11 deaf men whose inner-ear damage made them largely immune to motion sickness. They took part in unusual experiments, including prolonged stays in rotating rooms, parabolic "zero-gravity" flights, and boat rides in rough waters. Once, the 11 men kept playing cards, unfazed, while the researchers fell so violently sea-sick that the experiment had to be abandoned.

Their responses helped scientists isolate how balance works without gravity. Though not astronauts, their contributions played a key role in preparing humans for spaceflight, paving the way for missions that eventually reached the Moon.

The missing 'a'

After taking his first step on the Moon, Neil Armstrong famously said to the millions listening on TV or radio: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." But shouldn't it have been "a man"? After all, he alone, and not man as a species, was taking the small step.

In later interviews, Armstrong claimed he did say "a man" to distinguish between himself and humanity, but the "a" probably couldn't be heard on the radio due to static. A 2006 computer analysis of sound waves proved him right. Notably, Armstrong had not been coached. He came up with the lines himself.

6hrs 39min

That's how long Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin remained inside the lunar module Eagle after touchdown – completing checks before humanity's first walk on the Moon.

Did 3 Idiots get it wrong?

Remember Viru Sahastrabudhhe's obsession with the astronaut's pen in 3 Idiots (2009)? The astronaut's pen is a thing, no doubt. But Viru, played by Boman Irani, had been misled about his other claim: that "scientists had spent lakhs of dollars to create a pen that could write in zero gravity, at any angle, and at any temperature". Contrary to popular belief, it was not Nasa scientists who spent millions. It was the Fisher Pen Company that had patented such a special pen in 1965. Nasa merely ordered 400 of these pens for the Apollo missions at $2.39 apiece.

TEXT & DESIGN: SIDDHARTH MOHANTY | Sources: nasa.gov, scientificamerican.com, The Associated Press

ON THE PALETTE

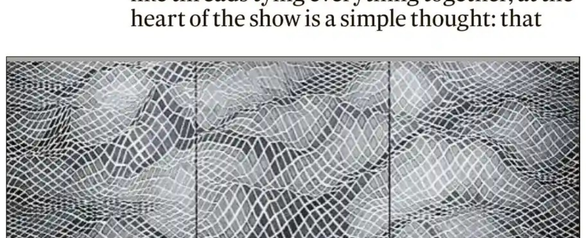
Salt, memory and ocean currents

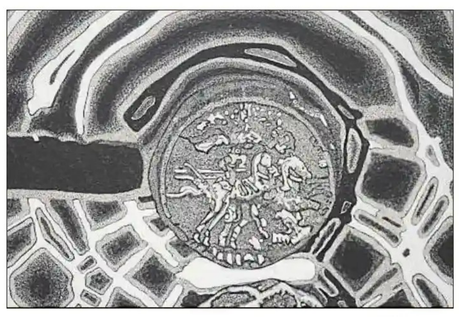
Senior contemporary artist Parvathi Nayar's works explore how human histories remain inseparable from the forces that shape nature, writes Deepa Natarajan Lobo

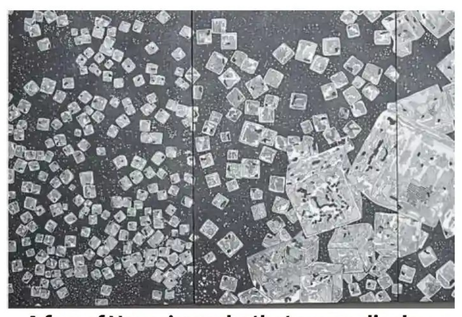
At Muziris Contemporary's gallery in Colaba, Mumbai, senior contemporary artist Parvathi Nayar's solo exhibition, The Primordial, brings together over a decade's worth of her work. The creations blend seamlessly into a living timeline, connecting ideas from different phases of her artistic sojourn.

The title, as Parvathi puts it, is about beginnings: original cells, the first signs of life in ancient oceans, and the slow churn of the earth through time. "These are not separate origins but entangled ones, where matter, memory, and life continuously shape one another. The works move between these registers, suggesting a continuum between the microscopic and the planetary, the intimate and the vast," she explains.

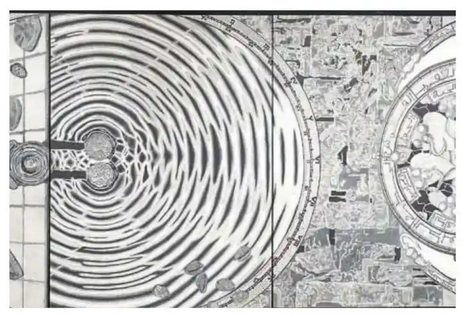
While these ideas play out through recurring images of water, salt, pepper, and cells like threads tying everything together, at the heart of the show is a simple thought: that earth, water, and humans aren't separate, and that our bodies and histories are deeply tied to these elemental forces.







A few of Nayar's works that are on display.



Pepper and poetry

One thread that runs through the show is her 'Pepper Series', first showcased at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale in 2014, which traces the history of the pepper trade. A force that pulled travellers and merchants to India's western coast for centuries, pepper is more than just a spice for Parvathi. It holds a certain poetry, standing in for those older systems of exchange. "The series continues to draw me through its evocation of how knowledge systems were shaped by encounters between civilisations, often driven by trade," she elaborates. Returning to it now felt timely for the artist. "Trade and tariffs remain charged, contemporary concerns, reminding us that these flows of power, desire, and negotiation are far from historical alone."

This idea also comes through strongly in 'The Grain that Moved the World', which gestures to those early journeys across the seas. "It returns to the ocean as a connector, tracing histories of trade through pepper as both fragment and memory, where ecology, exchange, and time intersect across layered, shifting terrains," she elucidates.

Another work she points to is 'Tide-flows-Salt and Water', which stems from a long fascination with the ocean's movement and geometry. Here, waves and dissolving salt turn into intricate, rhythmic forms.

Material is a big part of how all this comes together, as what the work is made of is as important as what it shows. Parvathi works extensively with graphite, and her black-and-white drawings carry a raw, textured quality, echoing salt, sediment, and organic matter. "Graphite has this granular softness that lets a surface feel both seen and touched," she describes. Scale plays its part too. Some works stretch out and pull you in, while others ask you to come closer to notice the finer details. "There's a deliberate play of scale," she points out. That shift from the sweeping to the minute mirrors how her ideas move between larger systems and smaller, almost invisible forms. Not everything comes together in a straight line. 'Saltforms', a three-part work, began as what she calls "an abstract ballet of salt", but grew into something else as it developed. "The shifting scales of salt forms, both as suspended particles and crystalline structures, began to also suggest the movements of trade, the rising salinity associated with global warming, and the collapsing micro-macro worlds." Drawing from the salt pans of Tamil Nadu, the work brings together geology, climate, and history in a quiet, layered way.

"Any piece is always completed in the eye of the beholder," she reflects. On one level, the exhibition feels like a meditative process, a tribute to the ocean, its movement, scale, and its ability to hold and generate life. On another, it touches on histories of trade and exchange that still echo today. But at its core, there is also a more urgent thread running through it. The ocean isn't just an idea here. Teeming with life and increasingly fragile, it is essential to the very core of our being. "It is both a return and a reckoning: an invitation to consider how we emerge from, inhabit, and impact these ancient, living systems, and how their fragile balance underpins our collective future," she summarises.

'The Primordial' is on at Muziris Contemporary, Colaba, Mumbai, till May 1.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

ಸ್ಟೇಸಿ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ (ರಿ.)

STRACEY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

60 Years Diamond Jubilee 1964-2024

52, ST. MARK'S ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 001

SSLC TOPPERS 2025-2026

SCHOOL PERCENTAGE 99.14%

Congratulations to All the Students from Management, Headmaster & Staff

ADMISSIONS OPEN for LKG to PUC

JEREMIAH. A 93.6%
TANISHA ANTONY 92.48%
MOXITHA MEHR 92.32%
TEJASWI MANTHAN 89.92%
LAKSHITH. P 89.92%
ALIA MEHREEN 89.44%
LAKSHMI KUMARI 89.44%
RUKHAYA KHAN 88.96%
ABHISHEK. C 88.32%
ZARA FATHIMA 88.16%
ARIAH NATHALIA 88%
SUFFIYA 87.84%
MONALISA DAS 86.88%
ZAKIA TUZ ZIKRA 86.56%
LIPI SUBRAMANI 86.4%
ANOONA MANHA. T 86.4%
NABEEL HUSSAIN 86.08%
MOHAMMED SAHIR 86.64%
BATUL FATHIMA 84.32%
KIRTHANA. K 84.16%
RAHUL RAO. M 83.68%
MOHAMMED OWAIZ 83.68%
KINGSTON SMITH 82.24%
ZAYNAB MUSHTAQ 82.08%
ZAINUL HADYIA 81.76%
SWASTHI. S 81.76%
LAKSHAYA. V.S 81.06%
MAMTA KUMARI 80.48%

STRACEY MEMORIAL COMPOSITE PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
#52, St. Marks Road, Bangalore-560001.
Mob: 9448672709 / 9448599689

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026-2027

SCIENCE: PCMB PCMC
COMMERCE: CEBA HEBA SEBA

Applications are available at the above address between 9.30 am & 3.30 pm

AFFORDABLE FEE STRUCTURE

ROUNAQH

100% RESULT

GURUKULA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

ESTD. 1980

9th Cross, magadi Road, Bangalore - 23.

SSLC Toppers 2026

BINDU A K — STATE 10TH RANK — 99% — KANNADA - 125, MATHS - 100
HEMASHREE R — STATE 11TH RANK — 99% — KANNADA - 125, ENGLISH - 100, MATHS - 100
DEVENDER SHARMA — STATE 12TH RANK — 99% — HINDI - 100, MATHS - 100
VIJAY KIRAN A — 98% — MATHS - 100

VIPULA D N 97% KANNADA-125 SS - 100
KARTHIK M 96% SS-100
PRAJWAL B 96% HINDI - 100
YATHIN KUMAR N 95%
POORNAYUKTHI R 95% KANNADA-125
LAVANYA R 95% KANNADA-125 HINDI - 100
JASIYA KUMARI 95%
R MAHESHWARI 94%
GUNVANTH M JAIN 94%
KANISHKA R 94%
RAKSHA S 94%
PRAJWAL K 94%
MANISHA BAI M B 94%
HARINI M 93%
NISCHITHA N 92%
HARSHIK M 92%
RESHMA M 92%
ROSHAN P 92%
SANJANA J M 91% HINDI - 100
HARSHAVARDHAN M 91%
K R GURUSAMARTH 90%
LIKITH S 90%
THARUN B M 90%
POORVIKA G 89%
LOHITH D R 89%
BHARATH G 89%
HARSHAVARDHAN S 88%
DEEPIKA S 88%
PALLAVI M 88%
YASHASHREE 88%
GAGANA Y 88%
SNEHA N 88%
SANJANA S 87%
SATHYA S 87%
BHAGYALAKSHMI N 87%
R MONISHA 86%
GOKUL M 86%
PREETHAM S 86%
DIVYA B 86%
POORVIKA S 86%
AISHWARYA K 86%
JYOTHI M 86%
YOGESHWARI M 86%
VENKATESH PRASAD G 86%
SHREYA A 85%
V ASHWINI 85%
KARTHI M 85%
DARSHINI 85%

NEW OXFORD ENGLISH SCHOOL

6TH CROSS, GANDHINAGAR, BANGALORE -560009

The Principal, Management & Staff of the School congratulate the Students who have excelled in SSLC Board Examination - 2026

CHANCHAL 95.68%
RENUKA H 92.32%
SHRAVAN KUMAR 92.16%
NIKITA KUMARI 91.20%
SANJAY RAJPUROHIT 91.20%
SUDARSHAN RAJU D 90.40%
MANISH K R 89.44%
SAMARTH D G 88.32%
YASHAS H 88%
KAILASH KUMAR 87.84%
PARVEEN SINGH 87.68%
VISHWAJEET SINGH 86.88%
SAI RITHVIK JETTY 86.08%
VINAY SINGH 85.76%
VIKRAM KUMAR 83.52%
AMITH A 83.52%
VIRAJ SHASHIKANT SAWANT 82.52%
ASHISH H A 80.80%
CHETAN KUMAR 80.48%
MAHEK PUROHIT 80%
VRUSHAB S R 80%

Building a Villa ? Apartment ? Commercial Complex ? Industrial Building ? Institutional Building ? Factory ? RWH SUMP ? STP ?

THINK beyond RCC,STEEL & PREFAB technologies

UPGRADE to

The Best Building Structural System

ARCOSYSS

A Composite Construction Technology

STRONGER than RCC
STIFFER than STEEL
FASTER than PREFAB

ARCOSYSS is a trailblazing construction technology that combines the advantages of RCC, STEEL & PREFAB technologies. This technology is scientifically validated and extensively used.

8618450069
9381013090
7406493797

www.thecementor.com
arcosysstechnology@gmail.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

NARGUND INDEPENDENT PU COLLEGE

BENGALURU

★ II PUC TOPPERS 2025-26 ★

23rd STATE RANK
S. NIKHIL
COMMERCE
95.33%

20th STATE RANK
MAHESH S
COMMERCE
97%

OTHER TOP PERFORMERS

SRIHARI
COMMERCE
94.16%

KISMAT GUJAR
SCIENCE
93%

KUSUMA
COMMERCE
93%

Congratulations!

★ Your outstanding performance deserves great appreciation. ★

ADMISSIONS OPEN
2026-27
FOR PUC SCIENCE & COMMERCE
Integrated & Long-Term Coaching
NEET | JEE | KCET | NDA

COURSES OFFERED
SCIENCE PCMB/PCMCS
COMMERCE CEBA/SEBA

Top-Notch Faculty & Personalized Mentorship
Modern Classrooms | Laboratories | Library
Transport & Hostel (Separate for Boys & Girls)
Affordable Fees + Scholarships Available

8310522965
9844518522
pre-university.nargund.edu.in
SCAN TO ENROLL NOW!

100 ft ring road, 2nd Main road ,Dattatreyanagar, Hosakerehalli, BSK-3rd Stage ,Bengaluru-56008

ಶ್ರೀ ಜ್ಞಾನವರ್ಧಕ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲೆ
SRI JNANAVARDHAKA PRIMARY & HIGH SCHOOL

#102, LG Ramanna Layout, Lavakusha Nagar, Laggere, Bangalore-58

STATE 9TH TOPPER
SINDHU B.U
617 (98.72%)
K - 100, SS - 100

HEMANTHESH K-P
609 (97.44%)

PRATHIBHA .R
598 (95.68%)
KAN - 100

LAVANYA .S
596 (95.36%)
KAN - 100

LIKHITHA
596 (95.36%)
HIN - 100

HARSHITHA .L
595 (95.20%)
KAN - 100

ROHINI .B.M
587 (93.92%)
SS - 100

STATE 14TH TOPPER
DEEKSHITHA M-S
612 (97.92%)
E-124, K - 100, SS - 100

N. ROHAN GOWDA
585 (93.60%)

YASHASHWINI V.M
585 (93.60%)

NIRANJAN H.S
584 (93.44%)

KRUTHARTH .A
579 (92.64%)

CHIDANAND K GUDUR
576 (92.16%)

NEERAJ .G
576 (92.16%)
HIN - 100

AKSHAYA .S
575 (92.00%)
KAN - 100

PRIYA .A
573 (91.68%)

KISHORE .M
572 (91.52%)
KAN - 100

NAMRATHA V.M
(91.52%)

DIGANTH H.R
571 (91.36%)
KAN - 100

REKHA .L
570 (91.20%)
KAN - 100, SS - 100

VEDHA .S
567 (90.72%)
KAN - 100

HEMASHREE
562 (89.92%)

VARSHA .S
562 (89.92%)

RAJESH .R
558 (89.28%)

PARTHA N GOWDA
557 (89.12%)

N. YASHWANTH
555 (88.80%)

NAVYASHREE .R
555 (88.80%)

JAITHEERTH .U
552 (88.32%)
KAN - 100

GOWTHAMI .S
545 (87.20%)

SUHAS .S
544 (87.04%)

RAKSHA .S
542 (86.72%)

YOGESH .P
542 (86.72%)

DHANUSH G.S
541 (86.56%)

HARSHINI H.Y
541 (86.56%)

HEMANTH .N
540 (86.40%)

BALAJI GOWDA M.V
538 (86.08%)

HAMSA PRIYA .A
537 (85.92%)
SS-100

MADHUSHREE V.G
536 (85.76%)

V. CHARAN
535 (85.60%)

BHOOMIKA .S
534 (85.44%)
KAN - 100

JEEVITHA .A
534 (85.44%)

NITHYASHREE .G
532 (85.12%)

SINCHANA .C
531 (84.96%)

TEJU .S.M
530 (84.80%)

PREETHAM .G
527 (84.32%)
HIN-100

DEEKSHITHA .M
525 (84.00%)

SANJANA .H
525 (84.00%)

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO 2026 S.S.L.C TOPPERS BY MANAGEMENT, TEACHERS & PARENTS

ANVITHA A
(603) 97%

SANS PUBLIC SCHOOL

EDUCATE • ENLIGHT • EXCEL

4th Block, RK Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bangalore - 96.

SSLC TOPPERS - 2025-26

SREE KANTAPPA
CHAIRMAN
SANS PUBLIC SCHOOL

B.K BHAVITH
(595) 95.2%

ESHAAN.C GOWDA
(595) 95.2%

SUMAN.S
(588) 95.%

DIVYA.G BILAGI
(575) 92.%

REVATHI.L
(575) 92.%

RAKSHA.S
(566) 91.%

CHETHANA.D RAJ
(564) 91.%

PREETHI .M
(550) 88.%

K.S RAMYA
(543) 87 %

B. MUSKAN
(529) 85 %

RAJ VARDHAN
(521) 83.36%

SANKETH
(511) 82 %

SOHAN .TM
(505) 81 %

MAHAN .K ARAS
(495) 79.2 %

VEER
(479) 77 %

SUBJECTWISE HIGHEST SCORE

Kannada	-123
English	-99
Hindi	-100
Maths	-95
Science	-93
Social	-95

****

WINDERMERE HIGH SCHOOL

MAGADI Road, Bangalore - 560023. Karnataka INDIA Ph: 080-23144539 / 080-40948787

Website: www.windermereschool.in, E-mail: windermerepublicschool@gmail.com

Heartly Congralation To SSLC Toppers 2025-26

G. AVANTHIKA
591 94.5%

NAGAKEERTHANA .S
579 92.64%

YOGITHA RAJ .R
566 90.56%

CHANDANA .B
560 89.6%

ANGUASMITHA .S
551 88.16%

NAVEEN .M
536 85.76%

K. AAFIYA FARHEEN
512 81.92%

SHREE VIDHYA .R
506 80.96%

THANUSHREE .N
502 80.32%

CHETHANA SAHU
498 79.68%

GAURAV
484 77.44%

PINKI
473 75.68%

NIDA FATHIMA
468 74.88%

THANUSHIKA .S
465 74.4%

BHAVANA .S
457 73.12%

SURYA .S
453 72.48%

ARYAN PRADEEP SHINDE
446 71.36%

BHOOMIKA CHOUDHARY .T
434 69.44%

ROOPESH .P
427 68.32%

CHETHAN .N
421 67.36%

MANISH RAGHAVAN .B
420 67.2%

JIVIKA .G
419 67.04%

SAI RAGHAV .M
403 64.48%

GAJENDAR SINGH
402 64.32%

BLESSO NIMALAN
389 62.24%

V.D. SHIVASHAKTHI
377 60.32%

100% Results for Matha National Public School

Matha National Public School, one of the institutions under the Chinmayi Education Trust in Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru, has once again achieved a 100% pass result in the SSLC examination this year, continuing its tradition of excellence.Out of a total of 79 students:* 35 students secured above 90% and achieved distinction,* 40 students passed in first class, and* 4 students passed in second class.With this outstanding performance, the school has achieved a perfect 100% result.The school management, Principal, teaching staff, and parents have congratulated the students on their achievement, and the occasion has brought great joy and celebration to everyone.

98%
PANKAJA.A

98%
MOKSHANA P.S

98%
INCHARA N.K

98%
RAJESH KUMAR DHAMI

97%
MINCHU.A

97%
BHAVANA.S

97%
VAISHNAVI.V

97%
GANGOTHRI.J

96%
MANVITHA.M.H

96%
SHALMA.L

95%
INCHARA.B.R

95%
MANYA.J

95%
MANYA.N

94%
HITHA SHREE.M

93%
PRAJWAL.R

93%
GIRIPRIYA.C

92%
DEEPAK.M.B

92%
NITHYA

92%
MONISH.P

91%
PRERANA.R GOWDA

91%
ANANYA.L

91%
HARSHITHA.K

90%
CHANDAN KUMAR

90%
SHASHANK SHETTY

****

MAURYA PUBLIC SCHOOL

MARUTHI NAGARA
KAMAKASHIPALYA
BANGALORE

SSLC TOPPERS - 2025-26

PRAJWAL V
99.20%

HARSHITHA R
97%

CHAITANYA HIREMATH
96%

GEETHA K
95.30%

GIRIDHAR V
95.30%

CHARITHA M
92%

YASHASWINI
91%

SAHANA L
90.80%

CHETHAN KUMAR R
90.24%

SANTI MALLI ROHINI
88.80%

SHAKTHI PRIYA
88.30%

MEGHANA S
88%

LAKSHMI I
87.50%

NIKIL D
86.72%

YOGITHA N
86%

VENUGOPAL D
85.90%

SHIVAIAH M
83.60%

ANUSHA S PUTTI
83.30%

NANDAN KUMAR G
81.20%

SHREYAS .S
81.10%

SHRAVYA B
80.80%

VEERESH R
80.80%

KUSMA BAI K
80.60%

DEEKSHITH M
80.30%

PANKAJ JHA
79.80%

KAMALA I
79.60%

YOGITHA R
77.60%

BHAVESH KUMAR
76.60%

More value, more impact

Classifieds

ASC™ Committed to Excellence

ASC GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

#A3, 1st Main Road, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010.

Prof. H. S. Ananthamurthy
Founder Chairman
ASC Educational & Cultural Trust

ASC INDEPENDENT PU COLLEGE

II PUC COMMERCE & SCIENCE RANK HOLDERS

MAR. 2023

39 STATE RANKS

INCHARA N
596 / 600 99.33%

Eng	San	Acc	BS	BM	Stat
97	100	100	100	100	99

COMMERCE
STATE **2ND** RANK

NIHARIKA
588 / 600 98.00%

Eng	Kan	Phy	Che	Mat	Bio
95	98	99	97	100	99

SCIENCE
STATE **9TH** RANK

MAR. 2024

51 STATE RANKS

KRUTHIKA R
593 / 600 98.83%

KAN	ENG	ACC	BS	ECO	STATS
100	97	100	97	100	99

COMMERCE
STATE **5TH** RANK

PRAMODH RAO H
592 / 600 98.67%

SAN	ENG	PHY	CHEM	MAT	CS
95	99	100	100	100	98

SCIENCE
STATE **7TH** RANK

MAR. 2025

34 STATE RANKS

PRATHEEKSHA P
599 / 600 99.83%

ENG	SAN	ACC	BS	BM	STATS
99	100	100	100	100	100

COMMERCE
STATE **1ST** RANK

PRARTHANA J
595 / 600 99.17%

ENG	KAN	PHY	CHEM	MAT	CS
96	100	99	100	100	100

SCIENCE
STATE **6TH** RANK

MAR. 2026

47 STATE RANKS

NIDA SHARIF KHAN
596 / 600 99.33%

HIN	ENG	ACC	BS	MAT	STATS
100	96	100	100	100	100

COMMERCE
STATE **5TH** RANK

VISHAKH V PARASHAR
588 / 600 98.00%

ENG	SAN	PHY	CHEM	MAT	ELE
95	99	97	99	99	99

SCIENCE
STATE **12TH** RANK

47 STATE RANKS IN TOP 20 OF MARCH - 2026

5th — 596/600 — 99.33%
NIDA SHARIF KHAN

6th — 595/600 — 99.17%
DILIP C

6th — 595/600 — 99.17%
MEGHANA B M

7th — 594/600 — 99.00%
DISHA S YADAV

7th — 594/600 — 99.00%
SHWETHA R

8th — 593/600 — 98.83%
DEEPAK E NAGALI

8th — 593/600 — 98.83%
MEGHANA T

9th — 592/600 — 98.67%
N S CHIRAG

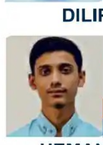
10th — 591/600 — 98.50%
ANKITHA

11th — 590/600 — 98.33%
VENKATA NAGA VYSHNAVI

12th — 589/600 — 98.17%
ADVIKA SOWMYAMS

12th — 588/600 — 98.00%
VISHAKH V P

13th — 588/600 — 98.00%
GUNASHREE G



13th — 588/600 — 98.00%
HEMANTH V

13th — 587/600 — 97.83%
KEERTHANA K

13th — 587/600 — 97.83%
VANDANA GOWDA

14th — 587/600 — 97.83%
AISHWARYA

14th — 587/600 — 97.83%
K M TANUJA

14th — 587/600 — 97.83%
K P LOHITH

15th — 586/600 — 97.67%
HARITHA R

15th — 586/600 — 97.67%
NIKITHA M

15th — 585/600 — 97.50%
MOHAMMED RIHAAN

16th — 585/600 — 97.50%
LEELA B S

16th — 585/600 — 97.50%
PRINCE RAJ M

16th — 585/600 — 97.50%
SHREYA G

16th — 585/600 — 97.50%
VARSHA L

16th — 584/600 — 97.33%
LAKSHMI V

17th — 584/600 — 97.33%
DEEKSHA K B

17th — 584/600 — 97.33%
HITHESH K G

17th — 584/600 — 97.33%
K SPOORTHI S

17th — 584/600 — 97.33%
PRUTHVISHREE M

18th — 583/600 — 97.17%
BHUVANA V

18th — 583/600 — 97.17%
MANASA R

18th — 583/600 — 97.17%
MINNATI R A

18th — 583/600 — 97.17%
NIHARIKA J

18th — 583/600 — 97.17%
PAVITHRA S

18th — 583/600 — 97.17%
RISHABH P PADAKI

18th — 582/600 — 97.00%
DISHITA A

18th — 582/600 — 97.00%
KRUTHIK M GOWDA

18th — 582/600 — 97.00%
MADHURA S S

18th — 582/600 — 97.00%
SHRAJAN S

19th — 582/600 — 97.00%
ANGELINA P

19th — 582/600 — 97.00%
GAGANA M

19th — 582/600 — 97.00%
MYTHILI S

19th — 582/600 — 97.00%
YASHASWINI D

20th — 581/600 — 96.83%
SHREYA V R

20th — 580/600 — 96.67%
RASHMITA TIWARI

ASC DEGREE COLLEGE

9 BANGALORE UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS

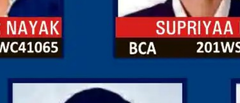
DEEKSHITHA R NAYAK
B.Com 191WC41065

SUPRIYAA K
BCA 201WSB7053

VIDHYASHREE E B
B.Com U03AQ21C0093

CHANDRIKA DAVE
BBA 201WC26006

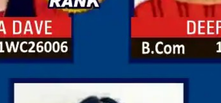
DEEPA S
B.Com 191WC41066



LIKITH S
BBA 201WC26024

CHETHAN KUMAR M
BCA 191WSB7010

HARSHITHA R
BBA 191WC26015



CHANDANA K RAJ
B.Com U03AQ21C0007

19 BANGALORE UNIVERSITY GOLD MEDALISTS

DEEKSHITHA R NAYAK
191WC41065

DEEKSHA V KASHYAP
191WC41063

SUPRIYAA K
201WSB7053

DEEPA S
191WC41066

SHIVU T
191WC41300

ANUSHREE M V
191WC41014

BHAVANA K
191WC41031

BHOOMIKA P
191WC41039

RAKSHAMBIGHA S
191WC41243

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026-27

ASC INDEPENDENT PU COLLEGE
RAJAJINAGAR

SCIENCE
PCMB/ PCMC/ PCME
NEET / JEE /CET

COMMERCE
ABMS / ABEM / ABES / ABEC / ABEH

www.ascpucollege.ac.in
080-23400290/ 6361806038

VES PU COLLEGE
(A UNIT OF ASC GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS)
THAVAREKERE

SCIENCE
PCMB & PCMC

COMMERCE
CEBA & SEBA

6360778522 / 9380081121
9880648751

ASC - DEGREE COLLEGE
(Affiliated to Bangalore University)

B.Com - Regular / ACCA / CA
B.Com : Business Analytics
BBA - Regular / ACCA
BCA - Regular / Data Science

www.ascdegreecollege.ac.in
8150009194

ASC DEGREE EVENING COLLEGE
(Affiliated to Bangalore University)

B.Com - Regular

ascdeclg@gmail.com
080-23400290

Sri SACHIN BHARADWAJ
SECRETARY - ASC Educational & Cultural Trust

Dr. RAMAKRISHNA MURALI
CEO - ASC Group of Institutions

Classifieds

More value, more impact

SILICON CITY ACADEMY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Affiliated to The CBSE, New Delhi. Aff. No. 830133

KUMAR NURSERY, NEW BANK COLONY, KONANAKUNTE
BENGALURU - 560062 | 93411 22554 | WWW.SILICONCITY.EDU.IN

Happy & Creative School

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOOL TOPPERS 2025-26

S K THANUSHREE
98.2 %

INDU R
97.6 %

DHEERAJ R
97.2 %

ANVITA S V
97.2 %

MAHATHII C
97 %

BHUUMIKA MADAN
96.4 %

AMIT HEGDE
96 %

P VISHAK
96 %

SHREYA SRIKANTH
95.8 %

PRATHIKSHA J S
95.6 %

TEJ V KUBASAD
95.4 %

SINCHANA M
95.2 %

PADMINI S
95.2 %

THANVI K V
95.2 %

DARSHINI DESAI
94.6 %

MISHIKA MISHRA
94.6 %

SANAVI BALLAL
94.4 %

SURAJ SINGH R
94.2 %

DHANVITA A
94 %

S S HARSHITHA
94 %

P SAI DRUTHI
93.8 %

FATHIMA RIDA
93.8 %

MEENAKSHY T M
93.6 %

MEGHANA J
93.6 %

R S RAMKUMAR
93 %

DIYA DENNIS
93 %

S V LAGUWE
92.8 %

VINAY PATEL
92 %

SUDHANVA K S
91.4 %

BHUVAN G
91.4 %

100% PASS

Academic Chairman
Dr. K S Sameera Simha

Secretary
Shri. L Ravi Lakshman

Director & Principal
Dr. Sumalini

100% FIRST DIVISION

Congratulates Students, Parents & Staff of Silicon City Academy

WHY CHOOSE US?

- Science, Commerce & Humanities
- Science – Comprehensive **JEE & NEET preparation** by **Physics Wallah**
- Multiple Subject Combinations (NEP – Based)
- Law entrance exam coaching **CLAT** and **IPMAT** by **Law Prep Tutorial**

ADMISSIONS OPEN
GRADE XI CBSE
LIMITED SEATS

2nd

TIMES SCHOOL SURVEY 2025

- Ranked # 2 in Jayanagar
- Ranked # 6 in Bengaluru

CONCESSION FOR SPORTS ACHIEVERS STATE \ NATIONAL \ INTERNATIONAL

CALL NOW
93411 22554

Siliconcity Sports Academy

FIT INDIA SCHOOL

FIDE SILVER FIDE SCHOOL AWARD — SILICON CITY ACADEMY, BENGALURU, INDIA

WORLD-CLASS COACHING PARTNERS

- Expert faculty and proven results
- State-of-the-art science laboratories
- Air Conditioned Computer Lab
- Mock Tests & Performance Analysis

More value, more impact

Classifieds

SESHADRIPURAM GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

• BENGALURU • MYSURU • MANDYA • TUMAKURU

Heartily Congratulate

its 86 Toppers of State in II PUC Annual Examination, March 2026

Seshadripuram Independent PU College
Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.

COMMERCE

10th Place Vikhaash S.

11th Place Likhitha M.

14th Place Chaithanya A.

15th Place Thanmayee S.

15th Place Pawan Shenoy

15th Place Vaibhav Raj L.

17th Place Monika R.

17th Place Aishwarya Bai S.

17th Place Likitha M.

SCIENCE

11th Place Sinchana G. A.

12th Place Shankara K. C.

13th Place Nitesh M.

17th Place Harshith R.

19th Place Sonia S.

Seshadripuram Independent PU College
Kengeri Satellite Town

COMMERCE

11th Place Sinchana T.

11th Place Supriya G.

13th Place Tripti Sharma

13th Place Jeevitha S.

13th Place Pushpa D. R.

13th Place Kushbu K.

14th Place Uma R.

14th Place Anagha S. H.

15th Place Niketh R. G.

15th Place Ispreethi P. A.

17th Place Noor Fathima

SCIENCE

6th Place Deeksha B.

9th Place Anushree N. V.

11th Place Sinchana G.

16th Place Chinmayi V.

16th Place Sneha M.

17th Place Sneha R. S.

Seshadripuram Independent PU College
Mysuru

COMMERCE

8th Place Chethana K.

10th Place Manju V.

10th Place Ullas K. R.

16th Place Bandhavya P. B.

17th Place Jyothika R. P.

19th Place Chirag M. V.

SCIENCE

15th Place Nisarga K. S.

19th Place Nithin N.

N. R. Pandith Aradhya
President

Seshadripuram Composite PU College
Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.

COMMERCE

7th Place Rahul Choudhary

8th Place Yeshashwi M.

11th Place Samrudhi V. K.

12th Place Thanushree K.

14th Place S. Sri Ram

14th Place Varssha C. S.

16th Place Tejashree U.

16th Place Nikitha A.

16th Place Soujanya

16th Place Hasini M. R.

17th Place Rakshith R. P.

18th Place Nidhi O. M.

18th Place Meghana A. Y.

18th Place Aditi Menon

18th Place Krish K. M.

19th Place Aarushi S. V.

19th Place Vinay M. B.

19th Place Pranay C. N.

SCIENCE

10th Place C. Nagendra

15th Place Vaishali Panwar

15th Place Syed Farhan

15th Place Priyanka P. C.

17th Place Suman Bharath

Seshadripuram PU College, Yelahanka New Town

COMMERCE

7th Place N. Preethi

8th Place Jhansi C.

12th Place Nithyashree N.

13th Place Mayura V.

13th Place Surabhi K. R.

14th Place Meghana V.

14th Place Reshma T.

14th Place Rachana A.

15th Place Srivatsav S.

16th Place Shravani K. S.

18th Place Yukthа S. P.

SCIENCE

18th Place Haripriya P.

19th Place Nithuna L.

11th Place Monikashree S.

16th Place Roshan R. S.

Seshadripuram PU College, Tumakuru

COMMERCE

6th Place L. Monika

14th Place Mamatha K.

15th Place Poorvika S.

16th Place Pooja M.

17th Place Chinmaye H. S.

18th Place Khushi M. K.

19th Place Bhavana

SCIENCE

11th Place Sherly S.

14th Place Shravani R.

Nadoja Dr. Wooday P. Krishna
Honorary General Secretary

Classifieds

More value, more impact

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Sites

Anjanapura

SALE BDA Anjanapura 8th Block 40x60 East Facing 40ft Wide Road Brokers Excuse Call 9880761950

Banashankari

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE- BDA-AVAILABLE/ WANTED 20x30, 30x40 40x60, 50x80 SITES. BRINDAVAN ASSOCIATES-9980863245/ 9945333993

FOR SALE BDA East Facing 30'x43.5' in BSK 1st stage Srinagar & DC conversion 40'x70' North facing sites in BSK 6th stage, for price call: 9845380312.

BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE, 11th BLOCK, CLOSE to UTTARAHALLI MAIN ROAD, 40x60 SALE. CALL: MANOJ 9731410616

BDA SITE For Sale Banashankari 6th Stage 7th Block 40x60, E/F Anjanapura 7th Block 30x40 S/F: 9964627255

COMMERCIAL 50X80 BDA Site for sale at Banashankari 6th stage, 1st Block 80 ft road Call:9845145329/ 9844039482

Bannerghatta Road

10000SFT PREMIUM Villa`Plot for`Sale Rs.4500/-Per. sft`at Bennerghatta Road-Panchayath Katha 40feet`Road with-Water, Electricity Close`to Nice`Road, School Colleges Hospitals etc. Call:9986888399 /9113820019.

Hosur Road

HOSUR RAYAKOTTAH ROAD ONNALVADI APPROVED RESIDENTIAL PLOT 1782 SQFT 9042020757

Hennur

SALE/JD HENNUR Cross Commercial Convertion Land 22,000 Sft BBMP E Khata. CALL: 9945227313 9739914365

Jalahalli

SALE, 30X40, 25X40. East-West. Abbigere, Shettyhalli. Opposite Vinayaka Layout, Converted, BBMP 'E' Khata. 7000/- sqft negotiable. 9880925237, 8088554050

Kanakapura Road

"**NARAYANANAGAR 30X40,** 40x43, 40x65, Anjanapura 30x40, Banashankari 6th Stage 30x40, Doddakallasandra 30x40 Sites. Call: 9845286505"

Kempegowda Layout

COMMERCIAL SITE For Sale 50X80 East Facing BDA 300ft Road Rs 16500/- Negotiable Nadaprabu Kempegowda Layout: 9916826976

KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Commercial/ Residential BDA Site for Sale 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Contact Kumar 9945119449

WANTED 20X30 Kempegowda Layout 5th, 6th & 7th Block Immediate Registration Contact: 7899570235

20×30 BDA South Facing Site For Sale, Brokers Excuse, Good Location, Contact: 9886107471

Nagarabhavi

"**AVAILABLE 30X40,,** 30x50,, 40x60 Sites in Nagarbhavi BDA & BDA Approved HBCS Society Layouts. Call: 9945494074"

Nelamangala

BYRASHETTYHALLI AISHWARYA County BMRDA 40X60,East And Banashankari BDA 30X40,Sites For Sale : 9620117773/9845857006

SITE SALE 35x50 west face, Rashi gateway near D-mart, Nelamangala-Tumkur toll. Ph-9880093622

Sadashiva Nagar

OLD HOUSE Lower Palace Arcade Near Sadashivnagar 20X25 R.T.Nagar BDA 44X61 Bangalore Sale 9448473358 9980072843

Sanjaynagar

SANJAYNAGAR KEB LAYOUT BDA 1050 sft North West corner 40 feet Road E-Khatha, Call: 7829203369

J P Nagar

JP-NAGAR 2ND & 3rd Phase 30x42, 30X50 34000/- PSft, 45x60 Rs. 36000/- Psft, Contact: 9916375577

Mysore

SITES FOR SALE
30x40 sites in D&E Block, Vijayanagar 3rd Stage, Mysore
80x43 Commercial Site South-East corner in 80ft-60ft road, Mysore
Also available 20x30, 30x43, 40x50, 40x75, 46x83, 15 years old layout, in middle of Vasathnagar, Mysore
Contact: 97419 05998

Vishweshwariah Layout

"**VISVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT** 6th Block 40x60 South facing Site sale Good Location Genuine Buyers Contact: 9845500019/ 7019314962"

"**VISVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT** near KLE Law College 50x80 North facing 80 feet Road, 100% Vasthu. 9448432633"

NORTH FACING BDA 1264sft site for sale at 6th block, Visveswaraiah layout Call:9844039482

SIR M Vishweswaraiah Layout, 1st Block Plot No-1709, S-E Corner, 46x59 sft. 9886838644/ 7337853039.

Vijayanagar

PRIME LOCATION SITE SALE 60x90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT VIJAYANAGAR CONTACT: 9845038343/ 6363250343

Vidyaranyapura

SAMBRAM COLLEGE Near Amba Bhavani Temple Back,Side 30x40, 37.5x40 WF BBMP B/E Katha, 40x60 WF Best County 2, DC Conversion A/E Katha: 8296895858

Yelahanka

YELAHANKA 60X90 Commercial Site For-Sale Near Garuda Mall. Genuine Buyers Call:Shivanssh From Niti Estates 9900001973

Malur

SALE HIGHWAY-LAND MALUR/KOLAR ROAD AGRAHARA HOSAHALLI NEAR STRR VOKKALERI EXIT 2ACRES 11GUNTAS LEVEL LAND PRIME FRONTAGE IDEAL FOR FARMHOUSE/INVESTMENT 7019472246 9045257786

R T Nagar

RT NAGAR 80ft Road, Commercial 60x90 and 40x60 Site Sale, Broker's Pls Excuse: 9845623970/ 9739400838

House

BTM Layout

HOUSE FOR Sale 40X60 G+1 BTM Layout, Bank Officer Colony, Brokers Excuse. Call: 9480255422.

J P Nagar

SALE JPNAGAR 9TH Phase Royal-Park Residency Beautiful Done 5BHK Duplex S/F Top Location Rs.6crore Negotiable Shivu: 9880004149

Kasturinagar

INDEPENDENT BUNGALOW Sale. 60x40 East Facing BDA. Newly Renovated. No Brokers. 5.5 Cr. 'Prime' 9845079698

Kumaraswamy Layout

KUMARASWAMY LYT Sale 40x60 PG fully-furnished 49 Rooms Single Tenent Rent _5L. Rs.8.75cr Nego. Call Shivu: 9880004149

Mathikere

SEMI COMMERCIAL Site with Old House For Sale at Mathikere Price 3.5 Cr Contact: 9008601081

Mysore

HOUSE-SALE 50X80; 42 sqrs; 2 floors 10 bedrooms 8 bathrooms.At #3133 4th stage 2nd Phase Vijaynagar Mysore 32Call 9355471129Time 2 to 5 pm

Vishweshwariah Layout

HOUSE SALE BDA SMVL, 5th Block, Rentel Income G + Three, with Car Parking 10 Years Old Building Good Location: 8217392686

Vidyaranyapura

INDEPENDENT 60'X40' 4 BHK Duplex BEL Layout 2nd Stage S/F- Prime Location 16500/- sq.ft: 9844264852

SALE-5BHK 5BATHS 40x60 CORNER OPPOSITE PARK VIDYARANYAPURA HMT LAYOUT WHATSAPP MESSAGE 9901678035 NO BROKERS

Flat

Kanakapura Road

40X60 FLAT (Apartment) for SALE 3BHK East Facing, Vajarahalli/ Raghuvanahalli. Price:2.20Cr. Call: 9740148870, 9341050991.

Nagarabhavi

FLATS FOR-SALE @ Nagarabhavi/ Chandra Layout 2 & 3 BHK Ready to Move In Good Location Call:9538472420 9845066608

Yelahanka

3BHK_CENTURY SARAS. Near California-Resort. Semi-Furnished. EastFacing. First Floor. 1674Sft. Parking+ Amenities. 1.25cr. 9845336624

Agricultural Land

Mysore Road

"**CHANAPATNA MADDUR** 34 Guntas Borewell, Coconut Trees 270000/Gunta,,, Sale 14 Guntas Tar Road 270000/Gunta. 9845178335"

Chikkaballapura

AGRICULTURAL LAND-SALE 15_K.M. From CHIKKABALLAPUR. 8_K.M. From HYDERABAD HIGHWAY. Suitable: FARMHOUSE 7019666458.

Commercial Land

Bannerghatta Road

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 100x300 Top Location, Bannerghatta Main Road, Near Apollo hospital, 24,000/-P.Sft Buyers Call: 9845036826

7 ACRE Land ready to Institution Permission, Before Bannerghatta (Tulip Road) Genuine Buyer Call 9845036826

Kengeri

SALE- CONVERTED Betterment Paid Land extent 35000 sqft A Khata. E Khata available. Opp to Kengeri Metro Station. Rs. 12000 per sqft. Brokers Excuse. Contact: 9880459141.

MORE Classifieds IN MAIN ISSUE

CONNECT Classifieds

FOR RENT / SALE
FULLY FURNISHED OFFICE 3rd Floor
ON OLD AIRPORT ROAD
VDB TOUCHDOWN
Next to HAL Museum
7447 Sqft
96 Workstations
3 Meeting Rooms
1 MD Cabin || 5 Cabins
1 Board || 1 Cafeteria
6 Car Parks
NO PHONE CALLS WHATSAPP MESSAGE ONLY TO 98450 31550

Architect's Marvel, Builder's Dream, Owner's Pride !
2 & 3 BHK Flats
with 50% Open Space
@ JP Nagar 7th Phase
MAJESTIC PROPERTY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.
Majestic Fortune No. 421, 2nd Main, Eshwara Layout, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560 078. (Near Yelachenahalli Metro Station, Kanakapura Road)
Mob: 90191 63704 93412 28681
www.majesticdevelopers.in
Scan for Location
Centrally located Swimming Pool with a Toddler's Pool I Skating I Gym Party hall I Basketball I Archery Library/ Reading Room I Landscaped Gardens Children Play Area I Table Tennis Jogging / Walking trail I Shuttle Court Squash Court I Pool / Billiards Tables

Yelahanka

3BHK_CENTURY SARAS. Near California-Resort. Semi-Furnished. EastFacing. First Floor. 1674Sft. Parking+ Amenities. 1.25cr. 9845336624

Agricultural Land

Mysore Road

"**CHANAPATNA MADDUR** 34 Guntas Borewell, Coconut Trees 270000/Gunta,,, Sale 14 Guntas Tar Road 270000/Gunta. 9845178335"

Chikkaballapura

AGRICULTURAL LAND-SALE 15_K.M. From CHIKKABALLAPUR. 8_K.M. From HYDERABAD HIGHWAY. Suitable: FARMHOUSE 7019666458.

Commercial Land

Bannerghatta Road

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 100x300 Top Location, Bannerghatta Main Road, Near Apollo hospital, 24,000/-P.Sft Buyers Call: 9845036826

7 ACRE Land ready to Institution Permission, Before Bannerghatta (Tulip Road) Genuine Buyer Call 9845036826

Kengeri

SALE- CONVERTED Betterment Paid Land extent 35000 sqft A Khata. E Khata available. Opp to Kengeri Metro Station. Rs. 12000 per sqft. Brokers Excuse. Contact: 9880459141.

MORE Classifieds IN MAIN ISSUE

Drilling of 6½ Robo Borewell Upto 1500ft

VIJAYALAKSHMI BOREWELL - BANGALORE
94481-71416

General

Multiple Locations

BAGALUR- CROSS- KIA Premium villa plot. 50x80-Rs. 7000/- sft. all Amenities. J.P.Nagar 8th Phase, independent house- 30x40 site sale for Rs. 18000/- sft. Dr. Ranji- 9845075049.

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

KIADB CONVERTED: Prime Industrial Land for sale. 50,000 sqft in Vasanthanrasapura Industrial area situated in NH4, Tumkur Road, East facing. Rate 2500/- psqft Negotialbe. Serious buyers contact:- Arif Khan:- 9845021260.

SALE 30 Acres Land Suitable for Industry, Warehouse, Residential School University Apartment. Dabaspet. NAIK: 9141326819

SALE/ BUILT to suit 9 Acres Industrial Converted Land Opposite KIADB Industrial Area. NAIK: 9141326819

Agricultural Land Converted

Out-Station

LAND-SALE 29 Guntas alienated land for sale along with Industrial sheds& office room atSite No. 231, E IInd block,Mysore-Palahalli Road, Palahalli.10 KM from Mysore.Call 93554 71129Time 2 to 5 pm

Villas/Bunglows

Devanahalli

DEVANAHALLI VILLA SALE 22000 Sqft Site. Brand New Villa Fully Furnished, Swimming Pool 7.75Cr. 9980577227

Joint Development

Out-Station

MUMBAI SOUTH OCEANFRONT PROPERTIES JOINT DEVELOPMENT/SALE . PANVEL INDUSTRIAL LAND. GOA 5STAR CASINO HOTEL. 9702932709

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Out-Station

GAURIBIDANURU 13.08 gunta CMC land for sale. Ideal for Residential or Industrial. Owner: 9986668202

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Banashankari

BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATI ANJANAPURA BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

"URGENTLY REQUIRED Residential 40x60`& 50x80 Sites Banashankari 2nd Stage, 3rd-Stage, Jayanagar Good Locations Genuine Owners Call: 9019533999/ 9900275599"

Vasavi Educational Trust
V.E.T. FIRST GRADE COLLEGE
(Permanently Affiliated to Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Listed U/s.2(f) & 12B of UGC, NAAC Accredited by 'A' Grade, Approved by AICTE, New Delhi)
14th Main, 2nd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore - 560 078.

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026

B.Com	B.C.A	B.Sc-FAD (Fashion & Apparel Design)
B.Com (Business Data Analytics)	B.B.A	B.B.A-Business Analytics*
B.V.A (Animation & Game Art)	B.C.A-Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning	M.Com.

- Qualified & experienced teaching faculty
- Well established Laboratories
- Seminars & Workshops
- Well Stocked Library & Digital Library
- Career Guidance & Placement assistance
- Preference to SC/ST students in admissions
- Scholarships to meritorius students
- Active Students Clubs
- Sports facilities viz., Temperature Controlled Swimming Pool, Turf outdoor ground, Gym
- Interactive smart board classrooms

Dr. MANANDI N.SURESH Hon.Secretary
B.S.ARUN KUMAR President
Contact office for : Prospectus & admission formalities
Ph : 080-2658 6808 / 2658 4760 / 95137 04800
www.vetfgc.edu.in

Nagarabhavi

"WANTED 30X40, 40x60, 50x80 SITE IN NAGARABHAVI, VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th STAGE, RAILWAY, UPKAR LAYOUT. Call: 6366903154"

WANTED BDA SITE 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 Nagarabhavi, RHCS Layout, MPM, Vishweswaraiah Layout, Kempegowda Layout 9008418631

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

Resedential/ Commercial

Basavanagudi

WANTED/ AVAILABLE Residential Sites/ Flats-Commercial & PG-Buildings Basavanagudi Hanumanthnagar Chamarajpet Banashankari Jayanagar JP.Nagar-9900399006

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

General

WANTED 1 ACRE TO 100 ACRE LAND. CONTACT: 87548 09650 /93637 61543

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

'WE-FIX' LEAKING ROOF, SUMP, SKYLIGHT, BATHROOM, TILING, HOUSE PAINTING, ROOF COOL EPOXY COATING. MACBOND. 9448572697

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology-9880916988

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

COMMERCIAL OFFICE space In raheja tower m.g.road. bangalore 1305 sq ft fully furnished with centralised ac n back up 2 kv. for rent. Contact 8867115586

COMMERCIAL SPACE for Rent 1400sqft, 1st Floor, ITI Layout Main Road, Sector -7, HSR, Prime Location, Contact Owner: 9343594249/ 8217449006.

TO LET Shop 130 Sqft on Lalbagh Fort Main Road, Bangalore- 560004, available for Rent. Contact: 9008720132

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT / LEASE
North facing Commercial Building Rent/Lease suitable for Bank & Office with all amenities ready to Occupy BTM 2nd Stage Near Silk Board Metro station on Main Road, stilt floor, 2nd & 3rd Each Floor 2000 Sq Plug and Play 4th Floor 1600 Sq with Mosaic Floor, With Sufficient Parking
Contact: 9845017944, 9901117711

Industrial And Factory

AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL Warehouse 160000 sqft Vijipura Hoskote Contact: 9341234288/ 9663224353/ 9845417487.

KIADB ANTHARASANAHALLI Industrial Area, Tumkur Available 2 Acres open space with compound party can build their own additional Temporary shed. Contact 8591917456, 9820070829

House

FOR RENT FURNISHED 3-BHK, 1350 sqft. Ground Floor, Car Parking, Veranda, UPS, 400m Vijayanagar Metro. 9620869322

3 BHK House also 1-RK for Rent near BTM metro station, brokers excuse. Call: 8496989886.

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

DH Classifieds More value, more impact
REAL ESTATE
www.dhclassifieds.com
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
BOOK YOUR REAL ESTATE ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITYON SATURDAY + SUNDAY
@ 2481/-* FOR 15 WORDS
BOOK NOW
Book your ad with us now! For more details contact:
+91 9845114560 | +91 9886213331
+91 9731810277 | +91 9900428036 | 080-45557163/164

More value, more impact

Classifieds

SRI VIDYA MANDIR EDUCATION SOCIETY

11TH CROSS, WEST PARK ROAD, MALLESWARAM, BENGALURU-560003

The Principal, Management and Staff

of the School congratulate the Students who have excelled in the SSLC Examination 1, 2026

KARNATAKA STATE TOPPERS

CENTUMS :

KANNADA - 14

MATHEMATICS - 4

SCIENCE - 9

SOCIAL SCIENCE - 20

III LANGUAGE - 41

STATE 4th
PREETAM M
622

STATE 5th
SAMRUDHI MANOJ
621

STATE 7th
DIVYA R SHET
619

STATE 8th
S THARUNKUMAR
618

STATE 8th
SANCHITA KESHAV
618

STATE 8th
VARUN NISHAN S
618

STATE 9th
ADITI IYER P
617

STATE 10th
SANKALP KAIKINI
616

STATE 10th
SUHAAS BADIGER
616

STATE 10th
SURAJ R
616

TOTAL APPEARED - 189

PASS PERCENTAGE 100

DISTINCTIONS - 120

FIRST CLASS - 60

SCHOOL TOPPERS

VEDIKA M R
615

INDUSHREE T
615

SATYA G SHANBHAG
615

SATISH BHARATH PALANKAR
614

K N TRIVENI
613

ADITYA V DESHPANDE
612

CHINMAY PRAVEEN BADIGER
612

SHREYA D
612

NIDHI V
611

PURAHAN SOMA
610

ADITHYA BALAJI
610

NIRUP R
607

DISHA T S
606

LIKHITH P
606

ADHYA B V
605

M HONMAYI
605

S G PRERANA
605

SUDHARSHINI M
605

KOTA ANWITA
604

MANYATHA KANSAL
604

POOJASHREE K
604

THANMAYI K
604

VISMAY M
604

ESHANTH GOWDA C
603

RUSHANK P
603

SAMARTH H S
603

ANUSHREE J
602

KEERTHANA P
602

PREETHAM C N
602

DHRUVA A B
601

P YAAMUNAN
601

PREETHA P A
601

SAMANVITHA R NANDAN
601

SUMEDHA AITHAL
601

SHRAVYA H M
600

KISHAN P HALUSWAMY MATH
600

For School admission details, please visit www.srividyamandir.in

ESTD. 1981

CAMLIN HIGH SCHOOL

6th 'C' Main, 4th Cross, Near 7th Main Bus Stop, Hampinagar,
Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560104. Phone : 080-23301363

100% Result

CONGRATULATIONS ! S.S.L.C. TOPPERS 2025-26

Best wishes to : Parents & Students from : Management, Principal & Staff

Jithendar Kumawat 606/625 96.96%

Reena P Patel 598/625 95.68%

Suryanarayana R 593/625 94.88%

Khushi .T 587/625 93.92%

Nithesh. K. P 583/625 93.28%

Nisha K 576/625 92.16%

Likith A 576/625 92.16%

Nakul T H 575/625 92%

Thanushree M 567/625 90.72%

Dhanushree G 565/625 90.40%

Yug.M.Jain 561/625 89.76%

Monisha K 554/625 88.64%

Anam Fathima 553/625 88.48%

Naksha A Jain 551/625 88.16%

Shreyas Gowda M 549/625 87.84%

Rishan Shareef 542/625 86.72%

Urooj Fathima 528/625 84.48%

Charan Kumar P 527/625 84.32%

Shamanth Sachin S 522/625 83.52%

Lakshmi S 521/625 83.36%

Harshil R 520/625 83.20%

Harsha M 516/625 82.56%

Shreya Manjunath Gowri 516/625 82.56%

Srushti Rao S 515/625 82.40%

Tharun D Shetty 512/625 81.92%

Punith P 507/625 81.12%

Chandana B 507/625 81.12%

Srusti A 505/625 80.80%

Kritika Tripathi 501/625 80.16%

Estd. 1989

S.Y.A. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Managed By : Sadashivanagar Youth Association (Regd.)

SADASHIVANAGAR ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

No.65/1, AECS Layout, 4th Main, Beside Ramana Maharshi
Heritage Centre, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore-560094
Phone: 080-23510402, 23512737, 9535127887

The Management, the Head Mistress and the staff Members heartily congratulate the following students on their meritorious achievement in the SSLC Examination of March 2026

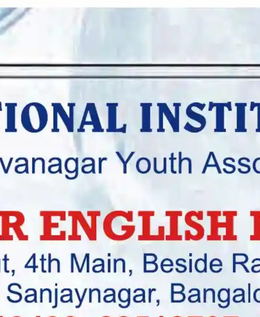
100% RESULTS

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

SSLC TOPPERS – 2025-26

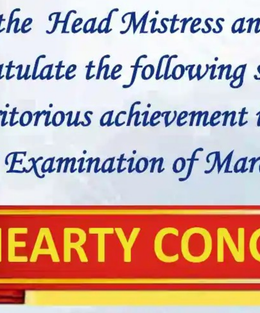
DURGESH A
94.72%

BHARGAVI S
93.92%


PRIYANKA R
91.04%

SHREYA K
90.04%

VAISHNAVI M B
89.44%


NITHU N
88.96%

NAVEEN N K
88.64%

GAGAN P
87.36%

VARSHINI P
87.2%

VIJAY SIMHA H B
87.04%

M. GIRIDHAR
84.96%

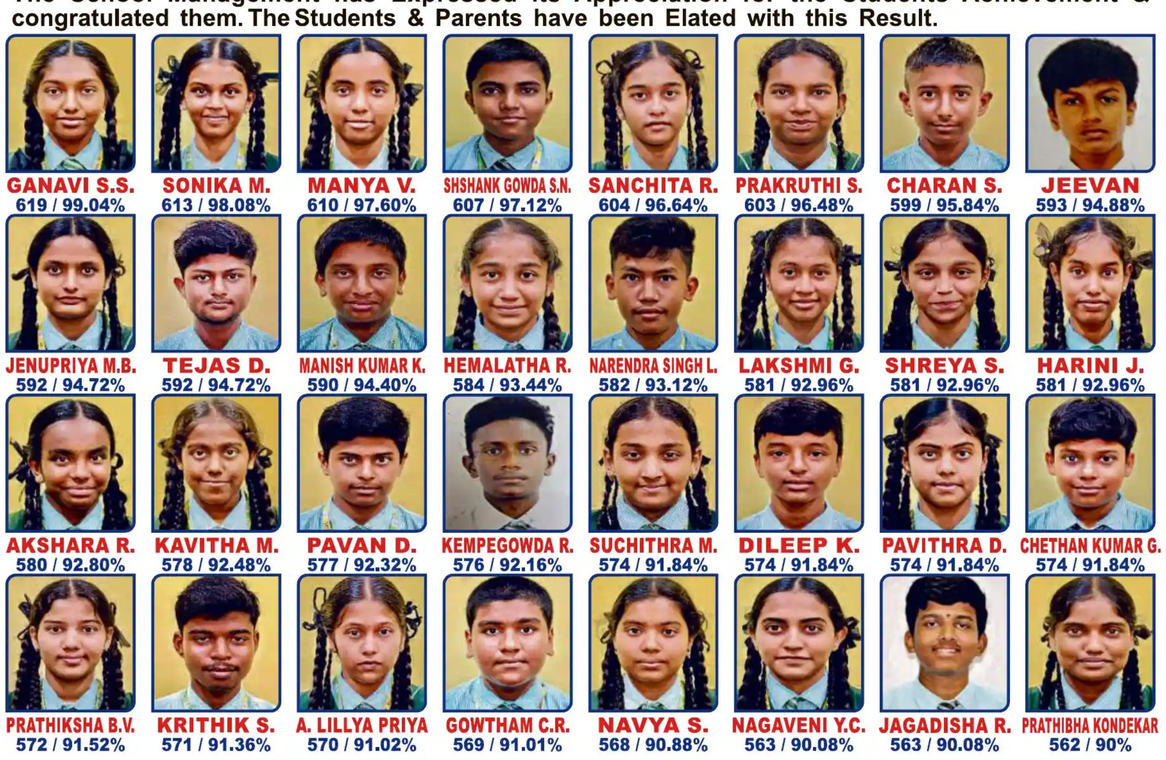
Classifieds

More value, more impact

VIDYANIKETHAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

TOPPERS OF SSLC EXAMINATION 2025-26

This time in Vidyaniketan Public School, Sunkadakatte, the SSLC Examination has Achieved 100% Results. A Total of 129 Students Appeared for the Examination, of which 59 (90%) Passed with Distinction, 56 with First Class & 14 with Second Class, bringing the School a 100% Result. The School Management has Expressed its Appreciation for the Students Achievement & congratulated them. The Students & Parents have been Elated with this Result.


GANAVI S.S. 619 / 99.04%
SONIKA M. 613 / 98.08%
MANYA V. 610 / 97.60%
SHSHANK GOWDA S.N. 607 / 97.12%
SANCHITA R. 604 / 96.64%
PRAKRUTHI S. 603 / 96.48%
CHARAN S. 599 / 95.84%
JEEVAN 593 / 94.88%
JENUPRIYA M.B. 592 / 94.72%
TEJAS D. 592 / 94.72%
MANISH KUMAR K. 590 / 94.40%
HEMALATHA R. 584 / 93.44%
NARENDRA SINGH L. 582 / 93.12%
LAKSHMI G. 581 / 92.96%
SHREYA S. 581 / 92.96%
HARINI J. 581 / 92.96%
AKSHARA R. 580 / 92.80%
KAVITHA M. 578 / 92.48%
PAVAN D. 577 / 92.32%
KEMPEGOWDA R. 576 / 92.16%
SUCHITHRA M. 574 / 91.84%
DILEEP K. 574 / 91.84%
PAVITHRA D. 574 / 91.84%
CHETHAN KUMAR G. 574 / 91.84%
PRATHIKSHA B.V. 572 / 91.52%
KRITHIK S. 571 / 91.36%
A. LILLYA PRIYA 570 / 91.02%
GOWTHAM C.R. 569 / 91.01%
NAVYA S. 568 / 90.88%
NAGAVENI Y.C. 563 / 90.08%
JAGADISHA R. 563 / 90.08%
PRATHIBHA KONDEKAR 562 / 90%

****

MAX MULLER PUBLIC SCHOOL

BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560 079. Ph.: 080-23233455

TOPPERS OF SSLC EXAMINATION 2025-26

SHREYAS EDUCATION SOCIETY

St. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE

Magadi Main Road, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore-79

The Management, Staff & The Students Heartily CONGRATULATES The Young Dedicated Stalwarts.

SSLC DISTINCTION HOLDERS - 2025-26

ADMISSION OPEN

FOR PUC COMMERCE 2026-2027

CONTACT:

9448381257, 8951429321

GURU NANAK DEV ENGINEERING COLLEGE BIDAR

Approved by AICTE New Delhi, Affiliated to VTU Belagavi
Accredited by NBA - 4 UG Programs (CSE, Civil, ECE & EEE)
Accredited by NAAC with A+ Grade

CET CODE: E043, M.TECH: T834, MBA: B181, MCA: C570

AUTONOMOUS

FROM ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

ADMISSIONS OPEN

UNDER GRADUATE PROGRAMS

* B.E in Civil Engineering
* B.E in Mechanical Engineering
* B.E in Electrical and Electronics Engineering
* B.E in Electronics and Communication Engineering
* B.E in Computer Science and Engineering
* B.E in Information Science and Engineering
* B.E in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
* B.E in Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
* B.E in Computer Science and Engineering (IOT & Cyber Security including Block Chain)
* B.E in Computer Science and Engineering (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)

POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS

* M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering
* M.Tech in Digital Communication Network
* M.Tech in Structural Engineering
* Master Of Business Administration (MBA)
* Master of Computer Applications (MCA)
* 9 Phd Programes

CONTACT DETAILS

www.gndecb.ac.in | enquiry@gndecb.ac.in

6364925579 | 9741892834

ಮೌಲ್ಯ ಗುರುಕುಲ್ ಇಂಟರ್ನ್ಯಾಷನಲ್ ಶಾಲೆ

Moulya Gurukul International School

Hompalaghatta, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal-562106

The Management and Staff Proudly Congratulate Star Performers of SSLC Examination 2025-2026

100% RESULTS

Harsha R (616)

Sanjay S (554) Pooja Abhilash (540) Aishwarya L (530)

Likitha B (521) Sushma M S (518) Madhumitha R (513) Sanketh Gowda K (509) Syeda Bushra (484)

Thanuja M (446) Charan N (426) Mohammed Yousuf (380) Somasekar (309) Dhyan S (286)

ADMISSION OPEN PRE KG TO GRADE X

www.moulyagurukulinternationalschool.in Hompalaghatta, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal. Mob: 88843 39155

More value, more impact

Classifieds

SARVODAYA P U COLLEGE - AS 0886

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PU 2026 STATE TOPPERS

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2026-27

100% RESULTS

Congratulations from Management, Principal & Staff

STATE RANK HOLDERS

BHAVYASHREE P
99.16%

SANDRA GRACE
99%

588/600 LIKHITHA P

587/600 MAYANA SHARMILA

587/600 GANESH H R

584/600 RAMYA S URAL

583/600 TEJAS G

582/600 GIRIRAJU LOKESHWARI

582/600 MADIHA ANJUM

582/600 MOHITH S

580/600 KISHORE KUMAR

579/600 NARESH G

578/600 CHAUDHARY MUKESH RATANARAM

578/600 MARUTHI S

576/600 JANHAVI H Y

575/600 SAHANA D

575/600 YASHASWINI G C

574/600 POORNIMA

573/600 SHAFIYA TASLEEM

571/600 PRIYANKA S

567/600 DIGANTH S

567/600 MD TANVEER TURKI

567/600 ROHITH C S

565/600 POOJITHA S

563/600 NAVYA K R

562/600 BHISWAJITH MANAYATH S

561/600 SANIYA SINGH

561/600 SUMITH K

558/600 MEDHA N RAJ

557/600 CHINMAY O

556/600 KHUSHI PUROHITH D

553/600 AINAN FIRDOUS

552/600 TEJAS ACHARYA H

549/600 CHANDANA K

549/600 UMME AQSA

548/600 BHARATH G

548/600 SAHANA S

548/600 GANGAMMA

547/600 GANESH SHRIKANTH SOBARADHA

546/600 KUSUMA P

543/600 AMULYA C

543/600 MIZBHA AYESHA SAHRIN

543/600 RAHUL KUMAR YADAV

543/600 PRAJWAL R

542/600 KRUPA H

542/600 E DEEPIKA

541/600 PRATHIBHA M G

540/600 SADHANA S

540/600 SAYYADA UMME HANI

539/600 RAKESH M

538/600 BHAVANA K

SCAN FOR LOCATION

11/2, Magadi Road, AD Halli, Beside RAHEJA PARK Apartment, Bengaluru -560 079 | Ph: 78928 71612 / 99167 76393 | www.sarvodayapuc.com

SCAN FOR WEBSITE

Kamala Nehru Education Society (R)

KAMALA NEHRU GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL | KAMALA NEHRU BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

#81, Nittur Srinivasa Rao Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004. Ph: 080 26609596

SSLC TOPPERS OF THE YEAR 2025-26

PRIYANKA .R
590 - 94%

LASYA .M
589 - 94%

SINDHU .S
586 - 93%

NAVYASHREE .V.R
581 - 92%

SINCHANA .J
565 - 90%

VARSHA .M
546 - 87%

TANISHKA S. ACHARI
545 - 87%

RASHMI .R
528 - 84%

SINCHANA .R
528 - 84%

SIMRAN
499 - 79%

ANKITHA
489 - 78%

KAVITHA .P.P
484 - 77%

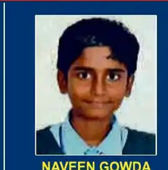
RAMYA .E
482 - 77%

VASAVI .A
479 - 76%

PRATHIKSHA .S
476 - 76%

NAYANA .S
467 - 75%

MOKSHA .N
466 - 75%


NAVEEN GOWDA
569 - 91%

DHANANJAYA .D
554 - 89%

JAGGESH
530 - 85%

SHASHANTH .D KAM
521 - 83%

DIGANTH .M
519 - 83%

SUJAN .M.C
513 - 82%

SUJAN RAO
492 - 79%

GIRISH
489 - 78%

SUBHASH .L
487 - 78%

AKASH
483 - 77%

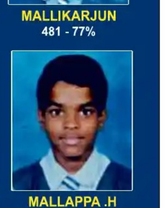
CHETHAN .M
482 - 77%

MALLIKARJUN
481 - 77%

SANJAY .V
475 - 76%

SUJITH .M.C
473 - 76%

SANTOSH .H
471 - 75%


MALLAPPA .H
466 - 75%

100% RESULT

Congratulations

ADMISSION OPEN-2026-27

Ph: 080 26609596

100% RESULT

Kamala Nehru Education Society (R)

KAMALA NEHRU HIGH SCHOOL

(Recognized by Government of Karnataka)

69 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

#67/1,Umar Bhag Layout,Banashankari,Bangalore-560078. Contact: 080-26710830 E-mail: kamalanehru576@gmail.com

ADMISSION OPEN-2026-27
9880542688/9113973948

SSLC TOPPERS 2025-2026

ADMISSION OPEN-2026-27
9880542688/9113973948

DISTINCTION

HEMA K H
601 (96%)
96%

BUDDA CHARAN TEJA
525 (84%)

MOHAMMED KHIZER
516 (82%)

DARSHAN
510 (81%)

AMURUTHA R
502 (80%)

SARIKHA FIRDOSE
501 (80%)

S K MOHAMMED MUSTAKIM
494 (79%)

UMME HANI
458 (73%)

MOHAMMED REHAN
453 (72%)

LAKSHMI A
445 (71%)

NISCHITHA
435 (70%)

Karnataka State SSLC Result 100%

Congratulations to All

COMMUNITY CENTRE ® - Since 1956

COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMERCE PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Recognised by Dept. of School Education - Pre-University Board Government of Karnataka

#2/1, Natabhairava Sri V. Vajramuni Road (9th Main), 9th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011

96% RESULT

LOCATED IN PRIME LOCATION - NEAR ASHOKA PILLAR, JAYANAGAR SOUTH BENGALURU

8th State Rank AANYA J S

11th State Rank ANANYA V

14th State Rank MEHNAZ

ADMISSION OPEN 2026-27

PUC COMMERCE

One of the Premium Colleges in South Bengaluru

SEBA | CEBA | HEBA | GEBA

For Details Contact

☎ 080-26566444 94490 82676

Classifieds

More value, more impact

ಎಸ್.ವಿ.ಎನ್ ಆಂಗ್ಲ ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಾಲೆ

SVN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

NAGAVARA & THANISANDRA BENGALURU - 560077

MORE THAN 3 DECADES OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

BINDUSHREE.R 98.56% 616

KANCHAN SAHANI 97.12% 607

AKSHATHA DODDAGOUDR 95.68% 598

PREKSHA C POOJARI 94.88% 593

SUMITH 94.4% 590

S ALEENA KHAN 94.4% 590

SADIYA FATHIMA 94.4% 590

VEERA SAMI K 94.24% 589

THRISHA.R 93.92% 587

DEEKSHA .S 93.6% 585

PAVAN KUMAR.H.K 93.6% 585

DIKSHA SHARMA 93.44% 584

JAHANVI.D 93.28% 583

ANJALI 93.12% 582

MONIKA GOWRI M 93.12% 582

IQRA AFROZ 92.96% 581

NIRUPADI GOWDA 92.8% 580

SHRADDHA SHREEKANTH 92.48% 578

GAFFAR KHAN 92.32% 577

SONAM R 92% 575

IMMANUEL SANJAY S 92% 575

MUZAHINA KHANUM 91.84% 575

VISMITH.A.T 91.84% 574

HEMANTH GOWDA.A 91.68% 573

SAYEEDA AFIFA FATHIMA 91.52% 572

RAINA 91.52% 572

PRATHIBHA 91.36% 571

POORNIMA T S 91.04% 569

TANISH KUMAR R 90.88% 568

MONIKA V 90.72% 567

PALLAVI R 90.56% 566

DHANUSH.N 90.4% 565

SHIVA SIES KHUNTIA 90.08% 563

KAMMARA JAYADITYA 89.92% 562

NITHYA.R 89.76% 561

NAVEEN KRISHNA.G.S 89.44% 559

ARSHIYA BANU 89.44% 559

MOHD AASIF KHAN 89.44% 559

MUSKAAN 89.28% 558

DIVYA 88.96% 556

JEEVAN.V 88.64% 554

SADHANA.R 88.64% 554

SYED MEERAN 88.64% 554

ESTHER NAVYA.G 88.48% 553

DEVARAJ 88.16% 551

RIDHA KHANUM 88.16% 551

CHAITANYA R M 88% 550

THANU SHREE B K 88% 550

AASIM KHAN 87.36% 546

MOHAMMED AAQUIB 87.36% 546

MOHAMMED ANAS 87.2% 545

SANJAY.R 87.2% 545

DEEKSHI PRASAD B M 86.88% 543

ANUSHA 86.72% 542

SYED UMAR TALHA 86.08% 538

SHARMILA R 85.28% 533

TASLEEM FATHIMA 85.12% 532

YATIN M SHETTY 85.12% 532

DHANUSH M 85% 531

LEKHANA B M 85% 531

YEAR 2026 SCHOOL TOPPERS

Congratulations

"You have made us PROUD

FOR ADMISSIONS CONTACT:

08025446756

08025432911

WWW.SVNENGLISHSCHOOL.IN

100% RESULTS